

**"I used to thank God that I had two arms and two legs. Now I'm grateful that I've got one of each"**

**BLOWN APART IN A MINEFIELD:**  
**CHRIS MOON'S COMPELLING STORY, p16.17**

**Dunwoody does it!**  
**Jumping into history**  
Page 23

**30p**  
EVERY WEEKDAY

## Minister's forceful intervention helps Kosovans to reach British haven

# Short takes on border guards over refugees

FROM DANIEL MCGRORY AT BRAZDE REFUGEE CAMP

MOBBED by bewildered refugees, Clare Short confronted Macedonian officials yesterday and urged them to stop obstructing families escaping from Kosovo.

The International Development Secretary demanded that 11 busloads of refugees, who had spent 12 hours stranded on a roadside near the frontier, be allowed into a relief camp built by British soldiers and then helped the frightened and frail to leave the first bus. Two had died while stranded the previous night.

"We have to quickly move the thousands trapped in those horrific conditions on the border before more die," she said.

Macedonian officials showed little inclination to open their border, despite condemnation by aid organisations and the attempts of the short-tempered British minister. She was inspecting the still-empty refugee camp at Brazde when two Macedonian ministers arrived by chance and blamed Nato for the delay in filling the 200 tents.

Ms Short forcibly disputed that claim and persuaded Aleksander Dimitrov, the Foreign Minister, to contact his Prime Minister by mobile telephone to order the first refugees into the camp, built on a private airfield.

Even then a zealous policeman in sunglasses tried to turn the buses away. The faces pressed against the window despaired at the prospect of being moved again.

British troops looked on with obvious frustration, unable to intervene. Then Ms Short and her entourage — including Brigadier Tim Cross, who is running Nato's emergency relief operation — appeared.

Together they led weary families to the lines of green tents and to troops waiting to hand out food and water. For some it was their first meal in 48 hours.

Ms Short's actions on the ground contrasted with a sense of confusion in London over how many refugees might come to Britain. Downing Street and Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said on Sunday that "some thousands" would be welcomed, but Tony Blair gave a warning yesterday against any premature action that would send the wrong message to President Milosevic.

The Prime Minister said that, although he was still committed to accepting several thousand refugees if necessary, the "ultimate objective" was to repatriate them to Kosovo.



12.235...12.236...12.237

The best place for them to be cared for was in Macedonia and Albania. "I emphasise again — and it's very important, or else Milosevic gets the wrong message here — these people need to go back to Kosovo where they live, where they want to be, and we will make sure that happens."

Ms Short told BBC Radio 4's Today programme yesterday: "All this talk of getting people out of the region is, in my view, irrelevant."

"I'm here in Macedonia and there are thousands and thousands of people on the other side of the border, not being fed, babies being born, people becoming sick. And if every one is in a tizz in London talking about getting people out, it's irrelevant to the crisis we have here."

When told that Mr Straw had announced that Britain would now accept thousands of refugees, she said: "I don't think this is helpful."

Officials said that the Government's position was not inconsistent. However, it is clear that Nato's announcement on Sunday of the numbers that some European countries would be prepared to take caught ministers off guard.

A spokeswoman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said that, whatever protestations were made of any refugee evacuations being temporary, some would inevitably settle in Britain and other Nato countries. Lyndall Sachs said: "Some of the refugees just won't be able to go home. It will be impossible. You can't make people go home if they do not have a home to go to."

At Brazde yesterday, when asked how many refugees Britain would take, Ms Short replied: "Don't know, don't care. That's up to London to decide. Let's get people out of that squalor."

The Nato soldiers at the camp were caught by surprise when the refugees turned up, instead of going, as they should have done, to another camp two miles away. Ms Short told them to forget the rules and just "dig in and help".

British troops agreed to fence off the camp last night, as the Macedonian authorities insisted, but are refusing to guard the compound to stop refugees escaping. Riot police immediately appeared at the gates, though too late to stop some who begged for lifts on the roadside to reach relatives in the capital, Skopje.

Mr Dimitrov was unrepentant at his country's behaviour towards the refugees. "Tell me any country that would just throw open its borders if 200,000 people showed up," he said.



Clare Short leading Kosovan refugees into the relief camp built by British troops at Brazde

## Disease stalks the muddy riverbank

Each night, the numbers of the dead and dying increase, reports Daniel McGrory

RED CROSS teams are concerned that epidemics are taking hold among the 40,000 refugees stranded on a riverbank beyond the reach of doctors.

Macedonian border police are refusing medical staff permission to go to the sick, so the victims have to be dragged up a muddy embankment at the Blace crossing point, where one tent is serving as a field hospital.

Stephen Tomlin, vice president of the international medical group, said that in recent days cases of hepatitis, pneumonia and tuberculosis had been discovered in the camp. "When you have a large number of people

and sanitation is poor, there is a risk of diarrhoea and dysentery. With children it is measles. We must get sanitation to these people before disease takes a grip."

Aid workers are also afraid that as the temperatures rise after a week of freezing rain, cholera may break out. A Red Cross spokesman said: "Every day makes the likelihood of epidemics more likely. That is why these people need to be moved fast and clean

water and sanitation brought in immediately." Nato medics, with their army field hospitals, are not allowed near the border to help.

With no sanitation, no shelter and no running water, the numbers of dead and dying increase daily. Most of the 30 refugees who have died in the past 72 hours were elderly people suffering from exhaustion and dehydration. "After what they have been through, their bodies could take no

more," the spokesman said. Other victims have been women going into labour. Two died in childbirth last night, as did their babies.

The medical care the Red Cross can provide at its tent is rudimentary. One doctor said: "We can't perform emergency surgery and for serious illness we have to rely on the Macedonians to take them to hospital in Skopje, 20 kilometres away."

"Those with conditions like asthma cannot get the medical help they need, so things that are treatable become acute and can be fatal."

Dr Shuttford, page 2

## Couple saved from sea after helicopter crash

By CHRISTINE MIDDAP

A PREGNANT woman and her art dealer husband survived nearly two hours in icy waters after their helicopter packed with works of art crashed off Dorset yesterday.

The coastguard said that Paul and Lisa Burgess, from Knotty Green, Buckinghamshire, were about half an hour from death when they were found, surrounded by their wrecked paintings.

Mrs Burgess, 27, "was so traumatised that her hands had to be prised free from the grabrail of the helicopter," a rescuer said.

The alarm was raised just before midnight when Mr Burgess, 37, who is also believed to work for a computer software firm, radioed: "We are lost in dense fog and all I can see is cliffs." Seconds later the Bell Jet Ranger crashed into the sea about two miles from Lyme Bay.

They were picked up by a fishing boat, and transferred



Paul Burgess is helped ashore by lifeboatman David Street

to the Lyme Regis inshore lifeboat. But when they reached the shore, they refused to get into another helicopter to be flown to hospital, preferring to go by road.

Neither was seriously injured — Mr Burgess broke his left arm and Mrs Burgess had cuts and bruises to her face — and they were discharged last night.

Photographs, page 12

## Sanctions against Libya are lifted

By JAMES BONE AND PHILIP WEBSTER

LIBYA faces a compensation bill of hundreds of millions of pounds if the two men handed over yesterday to face trial for the Lockerbie disaster are convicted.

The surrender of Abdel Baset Ali Mohamed al-Megrahi and al-Amin Khalifa Fhimah led to the immediate suspension of the UN sanctions against Libya which have been in force since 1992.

The UN will review the sanctions issue in three months, by which time the Security Council should have received a report from Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, on whether Libya has renounced terrorism and agreed to pay compensation.

Although insurance claims have been met, no formal compensation has been paid to the families of the 270 people who died in the 1988 Pan Am bombing over Scotland.

UN officials said that Libya had made clear in private negotiations that it was ready

to compensate relatives if the two suspects were convicted by the Scottish court convened in The Netherlands. However, a clear commitment is needed from Tripoli to pay whatever level of damages is assessed.

Mr Annan said he was confident that the two suspects would receive a fair trial before the transplanted Scottish court.

He said the transfer of the suspects to The Netherlands had gone smoothly and that the Security Council had acted immediately to suspend the sanctions on arms sales, air travel, imports of oil technology and diplomatic representation.

The decision means that Libyans will once again be able to fly freely into the country without having to travel overland from Egypt or Tunisia, and can acquire spare parts for its oil industry.

Suspects arrive, page 10



Individual Savings Accounts, the new way to save tax free, have arrived. For straightforward advice in plain English on which of our ISAs is best suited to you, call Abbey National free on the number below or pop into any branch. (Lines are open Monday to Friday 8am to 9pm and Saturday 8am to 4pm.)

**0800 174 635**

ISAs in Plain English

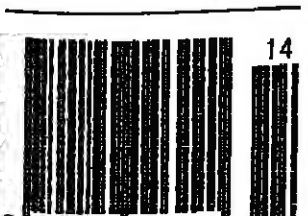


Because life's complicated enough.

ABBEY NATIONAL PLC, WHICH IS REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY, ONLY SELLS ITS OWN LIFE ASSURANCE, PENSIONS AND COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT SCHEME PRODUCTS. The value of tax benefits depends on your own personal financial circumstances and may be affected by future changes in legislation. ISA products are provided by Abbey National PEP and ISA Managers Limited, which is regulated by HMRS. To help us to improve our service, we may record or monitor phone calls. Abbey National, the umbrella logo symbol and Because life's complicated enough are trademarks of Abbey National plc. Abbey National plc, registered office: Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 1GL, United Kingdom. Telephone: 0207 637 6000.

TV & RADIO	42, 43
WEATHER	22
CROSSWORDS	22, 44
LETTERS	19
OBITUARIES	21
LIBBY PURVES	18
ARTS	32-34
CHESS & BRIDGE	26
COURT & SOCIAL	20
LAW	35
BUSINESS	37-44
FEATURES	16, 17
FANTASY FOOTBALL	31

Buying The Times overseas  
Australia \$2.50; Belgium B Frs 110; Canada \$3.50; Cayman Pk 400; Cyprus C11.30; Denmark Dkr 22.00; Finland Fmk 20.50; France FR 17.00; Germany DM 15.50; Gibraltar Gpy 7.00; Greece Gr 7.00; Netherlands H 6.50; Italy L 5.00; Luxembourg LFr 11.00; Madeira Esc 2.00; Malta Mls 80c; Morocco Mdr 30.00; Norway Kr 20.00; Portugal Esc 350; Spain Ptas 400; Sweden Skr 5.00; Switzerland S Frs 6.00; Tunisia Dln 3.000; USA \$3.50.  
Periodicals Postage Paid at Rahway NJ Postmaster: Send address corrections to: The Times c/o Mercury International 365 Blair Road Avenue, NJ 07001.





## BALKANS WAR: TERROR TACTICS

# Serbs make rape a weapon of war

Groups of silent women speak volumes, writes

Sam Kiley  
from Kukes

NOT satisfied with using young men as human shields against Nato and Kosovo Liberation Army attacks, nor with summary execution of children and the burning of homes to accelerate the exodus of Kosovo Albanians, Serbian border guards have taken to adding one more atrocity — rape.

Their victims are reluctant to talk about what happens in the border post at Monice, through which more than 20,000 people have been herded over the last few weeks. But the faraway stares in their tearful eyes, their torn clothing and the despair of the families of the victims speak volumes.

Just as the extremists of Bosnia's Serb Republic pursued a campaign against Muslims which included the forced impregnation of many Bosnian women, so the border guards of Monice clearly hope to father scores of Muslim children carrying Serb blood.

According to human rights groups and investigators from the War Crimes Tribunal at The Hague, and the victims themselves, Kosovo Albanian women are being picked out at the border as they wait with their families to cross into Albania, taken to a building not far away and violated.

There have been so many credible reports of this sort of thing that we are convinced it is part of a systematic campaign of sexual abuse. The whole level of atrocities being committed in Kosovo has overwhelmed us. We are going to have to bring in extra investigators," said a member of the tribunal team in Kukes, the nearest town to the border crossing.

The Serbs' method is simple. They select the women they fancy tormenting as they approach the final crossing point with their families, who are ordered to keep travelling into Albania.

They are then taken away, weeping and begging for their



A Macedonian soldier stands guard yesterday before several thousand refugees in a hastily-erected reception centre at the border crossing point of Blace. The women keep silent about the campaign of rape

lives. Hours, perhaps a day passes for the families, and then those who survive the ordeal are sent on their way with a casual wave.

At Monice their families keep a vigil standing in silent huddles by the metal barrier. Reluctant to admit what is happening to their daughters, these members of a society who view rape as the ultimate shame for a woman, say: "We were separated, and praying that the Serbs will let them live."

When the young women are reunited, there is no celebration that they have survived. They fall in silence into their parents' arms. Hiding their

faces they rejoin the huge throng of miserable humanity — again in silence.

Overwhelmed by the logistics of coping with an influx of refugees which is expected to reach 250,000 in the next day or so, and climb to half a million or more, the Albanian authorities and the few aid agencies which have reacted to the Kosovo catastrophe have been unable to offer any kind of help to the rape victims.

"There is simply nothing we can do but hope that the families of the victims are strong enough and supportive enough of these young women. But if any are pregnant as a result, they face a miserable

future of possible rejection by their families, or of raising a child conceived in hatred. That must be the worst thing anyone can inflict upon a woman," said a British aid worker.

**'We are convinced it is a systematic campaign of sexual abuse'**

in Kukes. There have been reports of rape and the use of Kosovo Albanian women as sex slaves since the beginning of the forced exodus which came close on the heels of the start of Nato's air bombardments of

Yugoslavia. But the latest revelations appear to carry more weight with human rights groups who stand alongside the families of abducted women and teenage girls, helpless

can be calculated in minutes. Hague investigators are looking into a number of credible reports that up to 300 men were marched into a field close to where the KLA has been fighting a rearguard action against the Serbs on the Albanian border.

Once in the field their resistance was allegedly broken down by being forced to stand in freezing rain for several hours. They were then driven like cattle back into a barn and ordered to dress in rags provided for them.

Then, at gunpoint, they were ordered to stand in front of Serb trenches while the Serb artillery fired mortars

and heavier weapons at KLA positions, confident that they would not be the first victims if fire was returned.

So far, The Hague said, there had been only a handful of survivors from this latest alleged atrocity.

In Kukes, the refugees said that they were now pinning their hopes on Nato and the dim expectation of ground forces to save those still left in Kosovo.

Risolta Unico, a student from Dajkovica who crossed into Albania in her slippers, had been spared the rapists because at Qafae Prushit the border is manned by professional Yugoslav soldiers who main-

tain a keen-eyed watch on their Albanian counterparts.

"They are burning our houses and killing the men. In the town there have been many rapes, but no one will speak of it. We need to be saved before there is nothing left for Nato to worry about. Please tell the world that we are worth it, we are human beings not animals to be slaughtered," she cried.

When told that the US had ordered 24 Apache attack helicopters to Albania she broke into a broad smile. "First there will be soldiers, Nato will not let us down. If they do not send troops, then what was the point of the bombing?"

## Terror, just like cold and hunger, can weaken the body's defences

Calls may be monitored. You must be aged 18 or over and own a property. We may need additional mortgage security. We will take into account your personal and financial circumstances, and the value and price of your property. There is a period of 14 days after completion of the mortgage when you can cancel the mortgage without penalty. This period is subject to the terms and conditions of the mortgage. For more details and written conditions, ask a local office. With respect, disclaimer or final interest rates, the special interest rate will only apply during the special rate period. The special rate period will end on 31st July 2001. If you repay a special rate loan before the end of the special rate period we may charge you a repayment fee. The repayment fee will be a percentage of the special rate loan amount. We have worked out the APRs assuming that the rate applies throughout the mortgage term. In practice, we charge a variable basic interest rate at the end of any special rate period. This service is not available for mortgages on property on the basis of MMR. Our first decision to lend depends on the value or price of your property. Typical example: A couple (male and female) both non-smokers, aged 25, applying for a PEP mortgage of £200,000 secured over 25 years on a property with a purchase price of £257,000. Assuming a discounted mortgage rate of 3.99% APR, with conveyance charges £2,127.50, valuation fee £150, mortgage discharge fee £20, change for dispatch of title deeds £25, initial interest £110.10 and also that mortgage repaid at end of mortgage term and interest rate of 3.99% APR applies throughout the mortgage term (in practice, the discount of 1.55% ends on 31st July 2001 and we charge our full variable basic rate from then on, that is currently 5.55%). Monthly mortgage payment £1,128.55 after tax relief, 200 Monthly payments, Monthly PEP premium £25.99. Total amount payable £120,000. Halifax plc, Trinity Road, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX1 3BN.

**YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.**

Halifax plc represents only the Halifax Financial Services, Marketing Group which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for life assurance, pensions and unit trusts.

### 15-MINUTE MORTGAGE PROMISE

Get up.  
Get a mortgage.  
Get dressed.

In a quarter of an hour you can get the promise of a mortgage — and a very enjoyable one as our rates are extremely attractive — you'll know how much you can borrow and how much you can spend. You'll know if you can put in an offer on a house immediately and none of this will cost you a penny.

2 YEAR DISCOUNTED VARIABLE  
**3.99% 4.1% APR**  
NO ARRANGEMENT FEE

CALL 0800 20 30 49

Lines open 8am-8pm 7 days a week or drop into your local branch.

**HALIFAX**

Get a little extra help.

THE refugees from Kosovo, crowded together in wet, cold and insanitary circumstances so dire that when the Macedonian troops visit them they are issued with gas masks, will suffer diseases spread by poor sanitation and contaminated water.

The authorities will be expecting gastroenteritis from Salmonella, Shigella, pathogenic E.coli and giardiasis and Hepatitis A. Other infections spread by droplet infection, coughs and sneezes, which would in healthier situations cause no more than a cough or cold, will when caught by someone whose immune system has been undermined by fear, terror, cold and starvation, result in pneumonia.

Many people harbour opportunistic organisms which remain quiescent in any, or many, of the body's systems but will if the patient's resistance to infection is lowered, cause serious troubles with pneumonia, the gastro-intestinal,



### MEDICAL BRIEFING

urinary tract or skin. As well as this ever-present threat of death and disease from opportunistic infections, there are now, apparently, three main causes of anxiety. There is an outbreak of Hepatitis A, bacterial pneumonia is rampant and there is an epidemic of measles.

Ex-servicemen who fought on the other side of the Adriatic in Italy in the 1939-45 war will not be surprised by reports of Hepatitis A. It was a constant scourge throughout the Italian campaign, despite the British Army's keen attention to latrine digging. It is doubtful if refugees could be similarly disciplined.

The virus causing Hepatitis A is spread by faeces, or very

occasionally, contact with contaminated blood. The disease has a two to six-week incubation period and so it is unlikely that the present cases have been caught after the refugees reached Albania or Macedonia. They must have been infected en route. The initial symptoms are similar to flu, but are associated with an almost total loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting and a severe headache and a feeling of absolute wretchedness. After three to 10 days, the patient usually starts to feel better but then begins to become, in many cases, jaundiced. The majority of patients with Hepatitis A, however, will make a full recovery. The outcome in bacterial

pneumonia depends on the age and resistance of the patient — older people and young children are especially vulnerable — the bacteria involved and the availability of appropriate antibiotics.

Measles epidemics are always likely when large numbers of unvaccinated children are mixed together. The seriousness of the illness is partly dependent on the quality of the diet in the weeks before the virus was caught. In this epidemic, the immune response of the children will have also been reduced by the disruption of their normal lifestyle, the cold and the fear. Medical care is essential for those who are badly affected with measles, without it the inevitable, but usually small, mortality and morbidity associated with the infection will become unacceptably high.

DR THOMAS  
STUTTFORD

## Refugees forced into Serbia after Nato blocks escape route

FROM REUTERS IN ROZAJE, MONTENEGRO

REFUGEES fleeing to Montenegro from Mitrovica, Kosovo's third largest city, have been forced into Serbia after Nato bombers destroyed a key road bridge in Kosovo, officials said yesterday.

Muslims and ethnic Albanians from Mitrovica, about 15 miles north-west of Pristina, began to arrive at Montenegro's eastern border late last week and the flow increased at the weekend.

But the numbers were reduced to a trickle yesterday after Nato bombers had destroyed the bridge, Kosovo, blocking their escape route.

A spokeswoman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said she believed that they had been diverted to the Serb town of Novi Pazar, about 15 miles further northwest. From there, she expected them to travel south into

Montenegro, which forms part of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. It has distanced itself from Yugoslav President Milosevic and has opened its borders to the refugees.

About 35,700 people fleeing Kosovo have sought shelter in Montenegro over the past nine days, although some have moved on to Albania.

Mitrovica is a large industrial town with mineral reserves.

Several hundred refugees from the city crossed the Montenegrin frontier on Saturday and about 2,300 on Sunday, the UNHCR said.

Some of the refugees who reached Rozaje at the weekend said that Serb forces had evicted them from their homes, then taken them by bus to the border.

In Podgorica, the Montenegrin capital, an anti-Nato



An ethnic Albanian from Kosovo carries his father across the border to the Albanian village of Morina

rock concert was staged for the second day running. It drew several thousand spectators, and another concert is scheduled for today.

France will not accept large numbers of Kosovans, arguing that they should be sent home, Hubert Vedrine, the Foreign Minister, said.



## BALKANS WAR: FATE OF THE EXILES

## Record of mass migrations offers scant prospect of return

REFUGEES rarely go back. In all the waves of ethnic cleansing, forced deportations and mass migrations of the past century, very few displaced groups have been able to reclaim their homeland.

From the camps of Nazi slave labourers to the Palestinian camps in the Middle East, from Vietnam to Rwanda, Bosnia to Kurdistan, those who are forced into exile often find the doors barred even when it is safe to return. The prospect for all the Kosovo refugees to go back to their villages do not look good: the facts on the ground change too quickly.

The wave of human misery that accompanies every war always flows to the nearest shelter. But often this proves inadequate, inhos-



**Gaza and the Palestinians offer a grim reminder of the instability that can emerge in camps near a refugee homeland, writes Michael Binyon**

pitiable or insecure. There is always the fear that the enemy is still too near, or that the new host country will find the refugees a burden and push them home again. Many who believe that they will go home within weeks. But as months stretch into years, they begin to look further afield.

This is the nub of the argument over the Kosovans. Can they remain on the borders of their

former homeland in huge numbers without destabilising their host countries? Will they be safe? Will they lose their neighbours, family connections and chance of return if they are moved away?

The dilemma has been at the heart of the Palestinian tragedy. Driven out in 1948, most wanted to stay in temporary camps, neither they, nor the surrounding Arab countries would accept resettle-

ment elsewhere. But as dreams of a return became ever more distant, the camps became a breeding ground for frustration and terrorism. The result is Gaza — an option that appeals to no one.

Most countries accept that population transfers cannot be reversed. The forced movement of all Greeks from Turkey and Turks from Greece took place amid fighting in 1922, and apart from ancestral memories there is no chance that Greeks will regain their old homes in Smyrna — modern Izmir. The partition of India at independence led to one of the world's bloodiest population transfers, which is also irrevocable. Even in Cyprus, current peace plans are based on the premise that refugees on each side

will receive compensation rather than their old homes back.

Those who are forcibly evicted do sometimes return. Stalin deported the Crimean Tatars en masse during the Second World War. It took a generation before any were allowed back but not all found a warm welcome returning to what was now the Ukraine.

Those who flee persecution sometimes go home when things calm down. Greek Communists who fled in their thousands on defeat in the civil war spent 30 unhappy years in the Soviet Union before the Greek Government allowed them back. Some of the thousands of Hungarians who fled in 1956 went back on the fall of Communism — but most had made a new

life in Britain, Canada and elsewhere.

It is harder to go back if the circumstances prompting the flight remain unchanged. This is especially true of economic migrants. The Vietnamese boatpeople were looking for a better life. They had no wish to return, even from detention camps in Hong Kong, and had to be forced to board flights back. Cubans who fled President Castro also claimed they were fleeing Communism; but if he died tomorrow, the Cuban population in Miami would still remain sizeable.

The only time an exodus has been reversed is when a haven has been set up to take them. Most Rwandan Tutsis went back after the genocidal Government was

overthrown — though their Hutu killers remained in neighbouring Zaire. The Iraqi Kurds who fled in the wake of the failed uprising against President Saddam Hussein after the Gulf War arrived in Turkey and did not leave until the United Nations set up a "safe haven" in the Kurdish no-fly zone. But many left again, when inter-ethnic fighting broke out. Hundreds of thousands of Bosnians fled during the Bosnian War. Thousands have returned but most want to stay in the European Union, and it has taken forcible evictions by the German authorities in particular to push them home in any numbers. The same will happen, aid agencies fear, if the Kosovans are airlifted to the West.

## British prepare to offer sanctuary

DISUSED military camps, hospitals and care homes are being earmarked for the thousands of ethnic Albanians who may be offered temporary sanctuary in Britain. Aid workers, who say airlifting them from the Balkans should be a last resort, are keen to avoid isolating them further from their communities by dispersing them too thinly around the country.

The Home Office said yesterday that it was still finalising a list of suitable properties where refugees could be adequately cared for. A spokesman added: "We are looking at empty military establishments, hospitals and local authority hostels and homes. The details have yet to be finalised because we are still talking to various government departments as well as local authorities."

Kent County Council said that it was examining the possibility of housing up to 400 refugees in a variety of accommodation, including a disused hospital in Dartford. Sandy Bruce-Lockhart, the council's leader, said that the Government should clarify how long the refugees would be staying. He said: "We are concerned that the refugees will be traumatised and will want to know how long they can stay or

**Disused hospital and army bases may be homes for refugees, report Joanna Bale and Tim Hames**

when they can go home. The Government is saying that it will be a temporary measure until they can return to Kosovo, but it would be helpful to know what that means. Surely they cannot return until an independent state has been established and supported by Nato. We are hoping for some clarification."

Disused army bases such as Rolleston near Shrewton, Wiltshire, which has housed prisoners and refugees in the past, are thought to be among those being considered by the Home Office. Peter Chalke, leader of Wiltshire County Council, said: "Rolleston is probably a likely contender, along with a couple of others used for army summer exercises such as Knook, near Warmminster, and Westdown, near Shrewton. We have a responsibility to do something to help and we will be looking at whatever other accommodation there is available."

Other possible sites include a former RAF nuclear bomber base at Fimble, near Doncaster, and Middleton Towers,

a former Pontins holiday camp at Heysham, Lancashire. A spokeswoman for the Refugee Council said that, in the event of mass airlifts of refugees to Britain, it hoped that families and communities were kept together to avoid isolating people. She explained: "We don't yet know if they will be coming in large numbers, but it is important to keep family groups together. When the Government offered accommodation to Bosnians in 1992 they were kept together in groups, which is the model we would be looking at."

Jack Straw will attend a meeting of European Union interior ministers tomorrow to discuss how refugees might be airlifted out of the region, an operation fraught with logistical problems.

The Serb owner of a village shop and post office has closed the premises in protest at the Nato bombing. Villagers in Liffey, near Oxford, have been surprised by a sign pinned up by Nada Bibic, saying: "I don't serve today or any day to come until bombing on Serbia stops."

I am sorry for all my good customers here in village. But you have to understand that my country is occupied. My parents and relatives suffer and all my people in Serbia. Just know that Kosovo is just the excuse to invade our country. Nato and all other countries who join them will not succeed because the Serbs will fight until the last."

David Penwarden, vice-chairman of Friends of India, the residents' association, said: "The bombing of Serbia was the last straw for Mrs Bibic, who has struggled to keep the shop open. Her parents have had to leave their home in Belgrade and she is very upset. One or two people in the village have objected, but I have told them to grin and bear it."

Mrs Bibic was unavailable for comment yesterday, but her shop window, cluttered with newspaper clippings and home-made posters, was a silent testament to her feelings. One poster declared "Nato = Hitler". The collage was punctuated by a note from the Post Office announcing that their substation was closed due to unforeseen circumstances. The hand-written sign said: "Post Office Closures Ltd are not associated with this protest against Nato."



A helper collects blankets for Kosovo in the village of Bressingham, in Norfolk. Meanwhile, the Home Office is studying lists of temporary accommodation

## Seconds to make choice of new life in exile

By ADRIAN LEE

KELIMA BAUTOVIC was in a tent at a refugee centre, sheltering from a storm, when she was forced to decide her family's future in a few seconds. "Do you want to go to England tomorrow morning?" she was asked.

Homeless and eight months pregnant, she became one of 5,000 Bosnians who were involved in the last great influx of refugees to Britain, in the autumn of 1992. "It was not a difficult choice," she said yesterday. "When you have lost everything you don't refuse an offer of safety."

An arduous coach journey followed, before she and her daughter Ena, then six, arrived in Luton, Bedfordshire, with a group of about 100 other Bosnians. They were barely able to speak a word of English and lived at first in a church hall. Ten days later, Mrs Bautovic gave birth to her second daughter, Amira, as she waited for news of her husband, Enver, who was being held in a Serbian camp.

"We were happy to be in England — the people in Luton gave us as much as they could — but it was difficult. The biggest problem was the language barrier."

Following the release of her husband, the family was reunited. A son, Sead, was born two years ago, and although the Bautovics are still waiting to be granted full refugee status, husband and wife have jobs and a house. Their children attend both English and Bosnian schools.

Despite their settled life in England, where Mr Bautovic is a lorry driver, the couple would like to return to their home in northwest Bosnia.

According to the Government, many of the 5,000 Bosnians who arrived in 1992 received full asylum two years ago. More than 50 British towns and cities gave homes to Bosnians — large communities exist in London, Manchester, Birmingham and Cambridge. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said yesterday that his own constituency, Blackburn, had given sanctuary to "quite a number" of refugees.

Only a handful remain. Musa Haldar, an aid worker who helped arrange houses for 13 Bosnian families in Blackburn, seven years ago, said: "Some stayed for a year, then either went home or moved to other parts of the country. They were a small group and they found it quite difficult to settle here."

One Bosnian mother, who asked not to be named, said yesterday that she found life in Blackburn lonely and hoped to move to London. "I am happy here but there are no jobs and I feel isolated. I don't have any contact with other people from Bosnia. A refugee from eastern Bosnia, she was given the choice of England or Germany."

"I had read about England and wanted to learn the language," she said. "The people here are civilised. I am free to do what I like — if I want to wear a miniskirt or a long skirt it is up to me. I don't want to return to Bosnia — my home is occupied and I believe I would be killed."

## Belgrade listens again for German bombers

AS THEY prepared for another sleepless night in Belgrade yesterday, the city's more senior residents shed quiet tears as they cast their minds back 58 years and a tragedy heralded by the Luftwaffe's bombers.

Olga Petrovic, 74, remembered her old house in the southern suburb of Zvezdara. She was lulled to sleep by a beautiful Balkan spring evening, of the sort that warmed the city last night.

"I was woken by a terrible noise and ran out on to the balcony. The sky was coloured black by a cloud of iron birds. I saw people running in the street, and then I tried to find my mother and my father. He was sleeping, and she was in the market," the old lady recalled. "That previous evening was the last time I saw my mother alive."

Today is the anniversary of the Luftwaffe's first attack on Belgrade, and the fact that German planes are again involved in bombing raids on Yugoslavia is not lost on the generation that lived through that first raid by Hitler.

What embitters and confuses them this time round is the role played by former allies such as Britain and France. America, too, they are disappointed in, but then pensioners like Olga remember the clumsy liberation raids of American bombers in 1944 that killed almost as many Belgraders as the Germans did on that morning in 1941.

"We ran towards a neighbour's cellar, and then I heard a heavy explosion," Olga continued. "I turned round to see that it was our house. Our neighbour's house was also badly damaged, and everything was in flames. The explosions were all around us and the bombing seemed to last an eternity. When everything had passed we went out, and I couldn't recognise my birthplace. People were trying to find one another in ruins. They were screaming and calling for help. I saw a woman dying in the street and blood everywhere around her. There was blood everywhere and I dreamed that scene for a long time afterwards."

Experiencing the third bombing raids of her life no



**Tom Walker reports from the city whose elderly residents remember the Luftwaffe's first attack 58 years ago today**

longer worried her, she said: if she had to die in her flat, she would.

Almost 3,000 Belgraders died alongside Olga's mother on April 6, with thousands more wounded. Some 40 per cent of the city's buildings were destroyed, among them the national library containing treasures such as the Prizren Gospel and other medieval manuscripts, many of them from monasteries in Kosovo.

Out at the Yugoslav Aeronautical Museum at Belgrade's Surcin airport, Colonel Janjic was more worried by the prospect of more Nato missiles. Several buildings around the airfield have already been destroyed, and the museum director fears that his priceless collection of aircraft, a powerful testimony to Yugoslavia's bonds with the wartime allies, could be blown to pieces by a misplaced Tomahawk.

Yesterday Mr Janjic was attempting to move his collection — from a rickety biplane of 1909 through Hurricanes and Spitfires to MiG jet fighters — towards the centre of the space-age, spherical museum building, in an attempt to limit any blast damage from the acres of glass windows all around.

He was only six years old in 1941, but has become one of the most learned sources on the German raids. He explained how the Luftwaffe arrived at about 7.30am. Germany having declared war with the Yugoslav Government after its planes had already taken off from bases in Hungary and Romania. They were joined later in the day by squadrons from Bulgaria: in all the Germans had 485 bombers and 160 fighters.

Against them the Yugoslavs mustered just 60 fighters, many of which were destroyed on the ground. One of the early heroes of the air force, 102nd

Squadron Commander Milos Zanic, was shot down just after taking off from an airfield that now lies under the concrete apartment blocks of New Belgrade. He was the first Yugoslav pilot to die that day; another ten were to follow later, and a total of 137 were downed during the war.

"We managed to shoot down 40 German planes with our artillery," said Mr Janjic, who today will lay a wreath at a memorial for the pilots lost.

"Then other German planes that were partly damaged limped home to airstrips in Sarajevo and Zagreb and elsewhere — just like the Nato planes of today."

As he passed a Spitfire and a rare variant of the Hurricane, Mr Janjic paused, and made us listen. It was still early in the afternoon, but the sound of Nato aircraft could be heard high overhead. "Do the British understand the irony of all this?" he asked. "You are destroying your own history, too."

Mr Janjic found some fading photographs, one with German pilots gathered around a bomb with "Happy Easter" painted on it. Similar tactics are being employed today, with one missile that recently landed in central Serbia bearing the inscription: "From Albanians, to Serbia. It's payback time!"

## THE EASY WAY TO TRADE UP TO A PENTIUM® III PROCESSOR.



OFFER CLOSES WEDNESDAY 7TH APRIL

Looking to upgrade to an Intel® Pentium® III Processor based system, but don't know what to do with your existing PC? We've got the ideal solution. When you order a new Dell® system, we'll arrange to take away your old Pentium Processor based PC. Securely wipe the hard drive, environmentally recycle the PC and even give you cash back. Call now because this great trade-up offer is only available from Dell the world's largest direct PC manufacturer.\*\*

**DELL DIMENSION™ XPS T450**

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor 450MHz
- Intel® 4GB RAM AGP
- 64MB 100MHz SDRAM
- 5.25" ATA-33 Hard Drive
- 15" Colour 1024x768 SVGA Monitor (13.7" Viewable Area, 0.28 dot pitch)
- ATI Xpert 9603 S3D 3D AGP Video Card
- 1740 x 22-RDM Drive
- Integrated Yamaha 64 Voice Sound (Speakers Optional)
- 4 PCI, 1 FDD, 1 ISA Shared and 1 AGP Expansion Slots
- Microsoft Windows® 98
- Microsoft Works Suite 99

**£899 (£1,103.33 inc VAT)**  
UPS 3 YEAR BUSINESS LEASE/RENTAL COVERAGE

**0870 9075869**

**BE DIRECT**  
**DELL**  
**www.dell.co.uk**

**3 YEAR COMPREHENSIVE DELL DIMENSION SERVICE** In the unlikely event of a problem our three year service brings complete peace-of-mind. **YEAR ONE:** If a problem cannot be resolved by our award winning telephone diagnostic support team, we will dispatch an engineer to you to repair or rectify it. Over 95% of all customer queries are solved quickly over the phone. **YEARS TWO AND THREE:** Dell will collect the system, repair it and return it to you — covering all transport, parts and labour. Dell's collect and return service, unlike some other manufacturers' is truly comprehensive even covering monitor, keyboard and mouse. Having a Dell Dimension is now as hassle-free as buying one. Full service offering details available on request.

Over 50 and renewing your motor insurance?

Try Saga for eight weeks low cost motor insurance

**0800 484 184** quoting reference TM3929

Our lines are open 9.30am to 7pm weekdays and 9am to 1pm Saturdays.

See your nearest Saga branch or visit our website for full details.

SAGA



## BALKANS WAR: THE AIR CAMPAIGN

# Hidden forces frustrate RAF as low cloud lifts

CLEAR weather over Kosovo led to an intensification of Nato airstrikes yesterday, but also a sharp increase in the number of Yugoslav surface-to-air missile and anti-aircraft attacks. No alliance aircraft were reported hit.

The improving weather provided the first chance to search for Yugoslav army units in Kosovo. However, as the gloom lifted at Nato headquarters, many of the bomber pilots, including the increasingly frustrated RAF Harrier GR7 crews, returned with their Paveway bombs still attached to the wings.

They and other Nato aircraft had failed to find Yugoslav units operating out in the open. Knowing that the clear skies over Kosovo would encourage Nato to come looking for them, most of the troops involved in "ethnic cleansing" had hidden in deserted buildings, woods and camouflaged positions.

Nato said the air sorties had helped to stem the ethnic cleansing, although a video was released showing Yugoslav armoured units clearing all the inhabitants from the village of Glodane "with customary brutality".

RAF Tornado GR1s were used for the first time, flying on an operation from RAF Bruggen in Germany to Kosovo and back, a sortie that lasted seven hours. General Sir Charles Guthrie, the Chief of the Defence Staff, said six Tornados, with three VC10 air refuelling tankers, attacked a

**Michael Evans and Tom Walker report on Nato's latest raids, including one on the Yugoslav air defence HQ**

number of bridges and tunnels. Initial reports, he said, indicated that "our objectives were all achieved".

Air Commodore David Wilby, Nato military spokesman in Brussels, said: "The weather has only just cleared to give us a little more chance of hitting them hard and we are now getting our tactics right, making sure we have got all our forces in there. We have ramped up the number of sorties we are doing and we are taking the fight to them very hard."

Among the biggest targets hit in the previous 24 hours was a Yugoslav air defence headquarters in Belgrade and two army barracks in the town

of Vranje to the south. Yugoslav state television, RTS, showed images of damaged buildings close to the barracks, including houses, a cigarette factory and a bus station. It claimed that 11 Nato missiles had been fired on the targets in Vranje.

Following the announcement from Washington that it was sending 24 Apache attack helicopters to Albania — a move formally approved by Nato ambassadors yesterday — William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, denied that it would lead to the future deployment of ground troops to Kosovo.

He told CNN it merely represented an intensification

and expansion of the air campaign. "It has been an air campaign from the beginning. It's going to be a continuation of the air campaign," he said, adding that the airstrikes would last for weeks.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, told a press conference at the Ministry of Defence: "After all the atrocities of the past two weeks, no decent person can now deny that Nato is right to fight the evil of President Milosevic."

He added: "The victims herded in their thousands in the past few days on to overcrowded trains are not people fleeing from the regime, but people being forcibly evicted by that regime. What we are

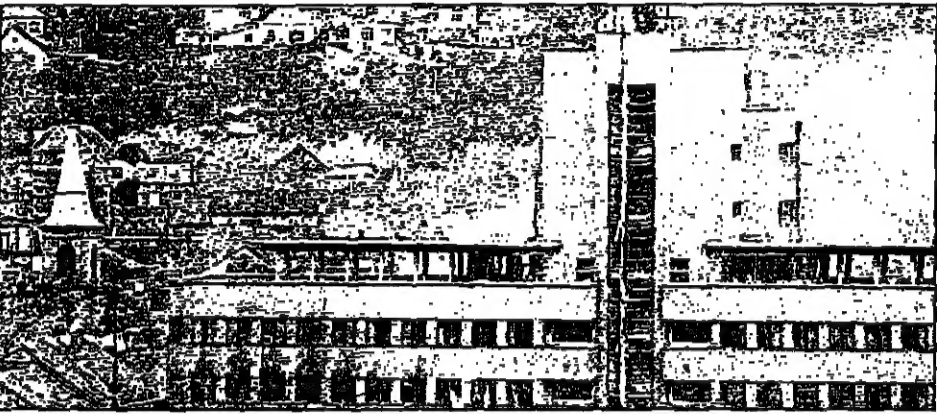
witnessing is mass deportation on a scale Europe has not seen since the days of Stalin and Hitler."

Mr Cook said that the airstrikes would continue against the Yugoslav forces "until Kosovo Albanian refugees were allowed to return to their homes under the protection of an international force".

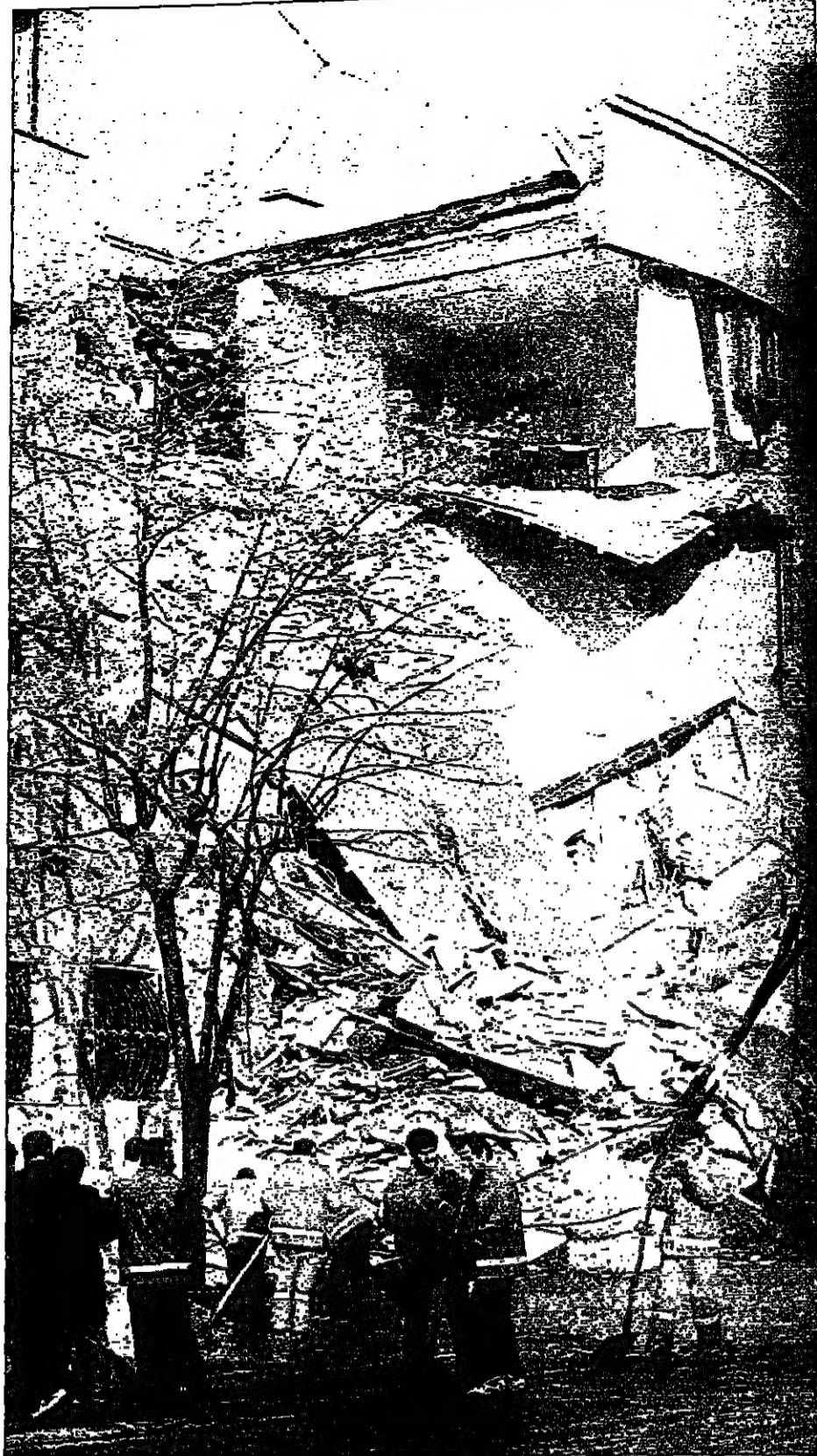
In Belgrade, it was reported that at least four civilians were killed in Nato raids on Saturday night and Sunday morning. A 52-year-old security guard was said to have died in the attack that woke all of Belgrade on Sunday morning, on the New Belgrade heating plant. Predrag Vasic, director general of Beoelektrana, told journalists that the plant was a civilian facility that provided heat for hundreds of thousands of people.

Two workers were reported killed and four injured in the attack on the power supply unit of Pancevo's oil refinery, near Belgrade, early on Sunday morning. The power supply plant was destroyed, disabling the refinery for the foreseeable future and increasing the likelihood of serious fuel shortages.

Six civilians were reported to have died as the fuel dump at Bogutovac, near the town of Kraljevo in central Serbia, blew up on Sunday morning. Those dead were said to include a warehouse keeper and two workers from a nearby train station, which was also damaged in the attack.



Smoke rising from the damaged Yugoslav air defence building after the Nato strike



Firefighters clearing up at the bombed air defence headquarters in Belgrade yesterday. Nato said that, with better weather, it was getting its tactics right

## Missiles hit diesel supplies and wipe out Serb tobacco works

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

NATO made its most comprehensive airstrikes against Yugoslavia on Sunday night and yesterday morning, hitting a variety of targets right across the country. Once again many of the facilities damaged had civilian uses.

The Yugoslav Army's daily press handout carried a map of Serbia that looked as if it had been in a paintball fight. Nato's missiles and bombs were reported as far north as Sombor, in Vojvodina, and attack sites then spread south through Belgrade, the central Serbian industrial belt and on

into Kosovo itself. The most significant strike was made against the headquarters of the Yugoslav Air Force in Zemun, on the outskirts of Belgrade. Missile damage was reported from Nis, the central city famous for its parachute units, where many civilian buildings, including schools and university departments, were said to have been partly destroyed.

The press handout focused on the harm being done to the civilian population, and steered clear as usual of mentioning any military facilities

that might have been near some of the strike areas.

In Nis, for example, the only devastation mentioned was that inflicted on the city's metal processing and tobacco industries. Serbs were horrified to find that the factory that has given them the "Classic" cigarette brand is no more. Again oil and fuel dumps were struck, and there are fears that farmers will be unable to plant their spring crops for lack of diesel. The army also highlighted damage done to the monastery at Gracanica in Kosovo.

## END THIRD WORLD DEBT

## AND START TO END THE THIRD WORLD

How can a country pay back debts to lenders, when they can't even afford to care for their own people? Let alone feed and house them. The lenders demand, demand, demand their money back. And then they demand the interest.

Now you can demand that this debt be cancelled.

We've a once in a millennium opportunity to make an historic gesture. We're calling for a one-off cancellation of the unpayable debts of the Third World. So that the money spent on repayment can be used to help eradicate poverty. It's a chance to break this vicious chain of debt. A chance to change millions of lives for the better, forever. It's your chance to support our campaign, by ordering your chain today. Wear it to show you care.

Our chain symbolises the chains of Third World debt. For your lapel chains send the coupon or call 0345 000 300

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ chains @ £1 each (50p p&p) total £ \_\_\_\_\_ I enclose cheque/PO for £ \_\_\_\_\_  
or debit my credit card. (Visa/Switch/Other, please specify) \_\_\_\_\_ Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Issue No. \_\_\_\_\_ P&M

Send to: Christian Aid,  
Freepost NW1 152A,  
Manchester M2 9GA.  
Registered Charity No. 259003

**Christian Aid**  
We believe in life before death

For more information  
on debt visit our website:  
[www.christian-aid.org.uk](http://www.christian-aid.org.uk)

## The truth about prostate cancer: what everyone should know

- 3 out of 10 men over the age of 50 get prostate cancer: 9,000 men die from it each year in the UK, and it's on the increase!
- It is painful, and causes great suffering to its victims and their families
- Men are still largely unaware of prostate cancer, and so ignore the early symptoms
- Yet, despite its seriousness, scientists simply haven't had the resources to break significant new ground in prostate cancer research.

The good news is that AICR is poised to launch a major programme to help protect men here in Britain - and eventually worldwide - from this 'hidden' killer.

Our first step has been to produce a helpful guide, *Prostate Cancer: Signs & Symptoms*.

which is yours for the asking, absolutely free. Our second step is to raise the funds we need to tackle prostate cancer with the kind of determination and enthusiasm that has so dramatically improved the survival rate for women with breast cancer.

We know we can do the same for men, but we can't defeat prostate cancer without you. Please make a generous donation to our Spotlight Appeal today, when you send for your free guide. Thank you.

This guide is yours  
**FREE**  
and it could be a lifesaver



**SPOTLIGHT**

☐ Yes, please send me my FREE copy of *Prostate Cancer: Signs & Symptoms*

☐ Yes, I'll support the Spotlight Appeal with a donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make cheques payable to AICR Spotlight Appeal)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

SEND TO: AICR Spotlight Appeal, FREEPOST, Bristol BS38 7AG

We are a registered charity fighting cancer through research and education. If you do not wish to receive news from AICR or organisations with whom we may co-operate, you can let us know at any time.



## BALKANS WAR: BORDER FEARS



Aslani Khaviti, a smallholder whose family has farmed land along the Macedonia frontier for generations. "If we all run away, we just leave our land to the Serbs," he says.

# Farm minefields sow death

Frontier smallholders see their way of life becoming a casualty of war, writes Daniel McGrory in Blace

THE front line here is a hilltop meadow scattered with wild primroses where 57-year-old Aslani Khaviti grazes his cattle.

Near the stone bridge his grandfather built across the river Lepelec, Serb soldiers have planted landmines beneath the neat lines of his peach and apple trees.

An armoured personnel carrier is parked in Aslani's orchard, the early-morning sun glinting off a cannon pointing at his whitewalled villa.

Bored with sitting around, now the town of Djeneral Janckovic has been emptied of its Albanian population, Serb conscripts amuse themselves by encouraging packs of stray dogs to chase cattle into the minefield. A dozen beasts lay dead across the meadow.

Aslani crouches under a

hedgerow and stares down at the land his family has owned for six generations but which lies across the present borders of Macedonia and Kosovo.

"Borders never mattered to any of us before," he said, slowly rolling a cigarette as a Serb soldier watched him through binoculars.

"We are all farmers and share our land and water. I can't go to my animals now, so one by one they are being killed. When they have finished with the horses and cows, will they come for me?"

What is immediately noticeable in the narrow streets of Blace on the Macedonian side of the border, is that no wom-

en or children are to be seen. Aslani explains they were all moved away the day Nato airstrikes began on the hills beyond. The children of Blace were Macedonia's first refugees in this war, but in the chaos spilling out from Kosovo no one has noticed.

The men stand out of sight of the Serb guns, chain-smoking and debating whether they too should leave.

He offered the first of them

bread and tea, but within an hour there were 100, then 1,000, and now more and Aslani cannot cope.

His father was killed by Serbs when he was two years old, but he points to the part of

Djeneral Janckovic where his wife comes from. He moves his finger left to show where his daughter got married and where his oldest friend used to live. "He has gone now. Everyone I know there has."

Two hundred yards away, three Serb soldiers pick their way carefully across the meadow, past their minefield and down to the main road that runs to the border post. For the past 48 hours that road has been choked with cars. The line stretches to the horizon and beyond and those in the queue estimate that about 2,000 vehicles are stuck behind them in the mountains waiting to escape.

Two armoured personnel carriers are parked beside a cement factory in sight of the frightened families. Two huge red, white and blue Yugoslav

flags fly over the four lanes of apparently unmoving traffic. Vehicles that have run out of petrol or broken down are pushed to the side of the road, and their occupants told to complete their journey on foot.

Previously those on either side of the border did not need passports to cross back and forth, but now the Macedonian authorities have started making it as difficult as possible for the new arrivals to pass. At night Aslani says he can hear gunfire. He points to the roof of the cement factory where a sniper can be seen, idly running his gunsight along the line of cars.

"We can never pretend the two communities were close, but I could never see a day where it would end like this. Can there be worse hatred anywhere in our world today?"

## BALKANS SUMMARY

### Russia sends aid to Yugoslavia

Moscow: Russia has launched its promised operation to supply Yugoslavia with humanitarian aid. Yevgeni Primakov, the Prime Minister, announced following a telephone conversation with Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, whose country holds the six-month presidency of the European Union. Shipments of medical supplies, clothes and foodstuffs are being sent by lorry, but it is not certain who the recipients will be.

Mr Primakov said that the political process had to be instantly revived to try to bring Belgrade and the Kosovo Albanians closer to a settlement. "The most important thing now is to end Nato's military campaign. I want to repeat that the barbaric attacks by Nato are a tragic mistake," Gennadi Seleznyov, the State Duma speaker, and Nikolai Ryzhkov, a leftist former Soviet Prime Minister, are due to visit Belgrade today. (AFP)

### Challenge from Arkan

Bucharest: The Serbian warlord known as Arkan has vowed that his paramilitary Tigers will fight any Nato ground forces "to the last man". Speaking in an interview with a Romanian daily, *Jurnalul National*, he said: "It is when we fight on the ground that we will see who is the strongest. We are waiting for them." But he insisted that his Tigers — notorious for "ethnic cleansing" in Croatia and Bosnia — had not been sent into Kosovo. (AFP)

### Moderate's peace call

Pristina, Kosovo: Ibrahim Rugova, the Kosovo Albanian moderate leader, met Yuri Kotov, the Russian Ambassador to Belgrade, and repeated calls for Nato to halt bombings and for Belgrade to be "more co-operative with the international community". He added: "The bombing should be stopped and a monitoring should be put in." He said that he was awaiting clearance to go to Macedonia to work for peace. (AFP)

### Nato TV reaches Serbs

Belgrade: Blurred UHF television transmissions giving Nato's viewpoint on Kosovo were picked up by residents. Showing maps and a Nato insignia, a Serbian commentary said: "If only you knew what 'ethnic cleansing' was going on down there, you would be stunned. Milosevic is trying to show he is more powerful than he is. Is this the behaviour of a professional army? Nato has confirmed that it is broadcasting into Yugoslavia. (Reuters)

### Paris terrorism alert

Paris: French police have stepped up security in Paris and other big cities to counter the threat of Serb terrorism (Adam Sage writes). Intelligence service agents believe President Milosevic may order a military unit to mount terrorist bombing campaigns in an attempt to destabilise public opinion. They also fear isolated acts by Serb extremists in France. French police thwarted one such plot during the war in Bosnia.

### Horseman of apocalypse

Moscow: Andrei Andronnikov, an actor and director, dressed as an ancient Russian warrior on horseback to ride past the US Ambassador's residence and fire an arrow carrying a message that the Kosovo conflict would end on American territory, police said. The message added: "Those who act against Slavs by the sword

STANDARD LIFE BANK™

**Flexible mortgage?**  
**Look no further than Freestyle.®**

**Payment holidays.**



**No arrangement fees.**



**Interest calculated daily.**



**No hassle to arrange.**



**DISCOUNTED VARIABLE RATE**

**4.5%**  
INCLUDING 1% DISCOUNT FOR 6 MONTHS  
APR  
**6.1%**  
(VARIABLE)

**0845 845 8450**  
Mortgages have never been simpler

PHONE LINES OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 8AM-9PM, SATURDAY 8AM-5PM  
<http://www.standardlifebank.com>

Security is required. Mortgages only available to UK residents aged between 18 and 62, subject to status and to our mortgage terms and conditions, which are available on request. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. Written quotations are available on request. Typical example: Purchase price £80,000, repayment mortgage of £60,000, taken over 25 years, charged at 4.55% Discounted Variable Rate for 6 months then 6.05% Standard Variable Rate, 6 monthly payments of £335.20 gross then 254 monthly payments of £387.57 gross. Total amount payable £116,257, including standard valuation fee of £125 and solicitors' fee of £175. APR of 6.1% variable. For the 6 month discounted product, an early settlement charge equivalent to 90 days' gross interest at the Standard Variable Rate on the initial sum advanced will apply to redemption within the first 12 months. Payment holidays will be allowed after the first 6 monthly payments have been made and are subject to ability to pay and available equity. Payment of legal fees for remortgaging only applies if Standard Life Bank's solicitors are used. Standard valuation fee will be refunded on completion of the mortgage. Telephone calls will be monitored and recorded to help us improve customer service. Standard Life Bank Limited Standard Life House 30 Leithian Road Edinburgh EH1 2DH, is an Introductory Representative only of Standard Life, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority, for life assurance, pensions and investments.

# Buy 1 get 1 Free at Sainsbury's.



**Sainsbury's**





## BALKANS WAR: WEST'S WEAPONRY

## THE HUNT FOR YUGOSLAV FORCES

## THE AH64 APACHE MISSION

- 1 First company of Apaches sets off to hunt for Yugoslav armour from base in Albania
- 2 Second Apache company wait on alert in the air ready to take over from first wave
- 3 Search and rescue helicopters wait on alert

- 4 Scout helicopters flank the Apaches providing cover and target information
- 5 A10 joins the attack using Maverick missiles from 7.5 miles or its Gatling gun from about 2 miles
- 6 Target is located and lead company Apaches engage with Hellfire missiles at 5 miles, rockets at 3 miles and cannon at 2 miles
- 7 Weapons released they return to base and are replaced by second company keeping enemy under constant attack

## THE AMERICAN A10 'WARTHOG' MISSION

Thunderbolt 'Warthog' attacks Serb tanks from low level, firing from a seven-barrel Gatling gun that spits out 66 x 4.5in armour-penetrating projectiles every second.

Single-seater close air support fighter  
Length: 53ft 4in Wingspan: 57ft 6in  
Height: 14ft 8in Speed: over 520mph  
Range: 620 miles

## THE RAF HARRIER GR7 MISSION

Armed with BL755 cluster bombs, Harriers at low level will hit troops in the open and soft skin vehicles

Length: 46ft 4in  
Wingspan: 57ft 6in  
Height: 11ft 11in  
Power: one Rolls Royce Pegasus turbofan engine  
Speed: 661mph  
Range: 690 miles (with tanks)

## THE US ARMY A64 APACHE

Apache operates at earth-hugging level and can shoot missiles with remarkable accuracy, capable of penetrating every type of armour

APACHE AH64 ATTACK HELICOPTER  
Type: Two-seat all-weather attack helicopter  
Length (inc rotors): 58ft  
Max speed: 182mph  
Armament: One 30mm M230 chain gun cannon; 16 AGM-114 Hellfire laser-guided missiles; 76 folding fin missiles  
Range: 428 miles

## T55 MAIN BATTLE TANK

The Yugoslav Army's staple T55 tank which will be vulnerable to both Apache and Warthog.  
Hull length: 21ft  
Combat weight: 35 tonnes  
Maximum road speed: 31mph  
Maximum range: 310 miles  
Engine: V12 water-cooled diesel

## Searching high and low for the enemy

NATO is about to move more aggressively into the low-level bombing phase of its campaign, marshalling Apache attack helicopters and aircraft armed with cluster bombs to hit the Yugoslav forces in Kosovo — if they can find them.

The Pentagon has promised that the deployment of the Apaches, which have a 430-mile range and can loiter in the target area before firing their missiles, will provide NATO with a capability "to get up close and personal to the Milosevic armour".

RAF Harriers and other allied aircraft set out on Sunday to hunt for Yugoslav troops and armour carrying out "ethnic cleansing" operations in Kosovo, but returned to their bases without dropping a single bomb. General Sir Charles Guthrie, the Chief of the Defence Staff, admitted: "They did not engage any targets. Indeed, none was found."

The problem is that the Yu-

goslav army commanders have been ordered to hide their tanks, artillery and armoured personnel carriers in woods and camouflaged positions to avoid being picked off by the awesome American A10 Warthogs and other Nato aircraft capable of low-flying, anti-tank missions.

As General Guthrie pointed out, however, the mere presence of these aircraft over Kosovo was acting as a deterrent, although some ethnic cleansing was still going on yesterday.

"This type of operation deters and suppresses Serb action and helps to achieve our aim of curbing the barbaric repression we have been hearing about," he said.

If the tactical bombing campaign is to enter a different level of intensity, NATO's anti-tank killing machine will have to score some major successes for the momentum of President Milosevic's ethnic cleansing.



The tanks in Kosovo are taking cover as Nato tries to target the armoured forces which carry out ethnic cleansing. Nato's air power could soon be harder to avoid, writes Michael Evans, Defence Editor

ing operation to be blunted and finally reversed. Yugoslavia's killing fields in Kosovo now have to become Nato's killing fields.

For the first time in nearly two weeks of Operation Allied Force, the issue of military casualties is likely to move to the forefront if Nato aircraft begin to locate and destroy Yugoslav armoured units on a significant scale. Although Belgrade admitted yesterday that there had been a number of dead and wounded following Nato attacks on two army barracks in the town of Vranje, so far this has not been a conflict about casualties.

Nato has suffered none.

apart from the physical battering meted out to the three captured American soldiers; and although Belgrade has claimed a number of civilian dead and wounded, there have been no reports of heavy casualties among the Yugoslav military.

While this may have more to do with Mr Milosevic's attempt to keep the Yugoslav population behind him by giving the impression that his nation's forces are immune from Nato's strikepower, an all-out attack by alliance aircraft on troops in Kosovo is likely to change the image of the war far more dramatically than the clinical destruction of

bridges, fuel depots and heating plants.

The problem for General Wesley Clark, Nato's Supreme Allied Commander, is that it will take time for the new firepower to become operational. The 24 US AH64 Apaches, each armed with eight Hellfire anti-tank rockets, will be a deadly addition to the strike force already in theatre. But it could take more than a week for them to be packed up at their base at Wiesbaden in Germany, flown aboard cargo planes to Tirana, the capital of Albania, and reassembled for operations.

Nevertheless, while the A10s, RAF Harriers, armed

with cluster bombs, and B1B bombers, also with cluster munitions, take the battle to the ethnic cleansing battlefield in Kosovo over the next seven days, the announcement about the deployment of the formidable Apaches could add to the psychological stress which at least some of the Yugoslav troops must now be feeling as they hide in the woods to avoid Nato's tank-busting aircraft.

The latest Apaches can detect 128 potential targets in 30 seconds, select 16 and begin launching Hellfire missiles which are capable of destroying any known armoured vehicle from five miles. In the Gulf War, they operated in combination with other aircraft, such as the A10, firing Maverick missiles from about seven miles and the awesome Gatling "chain gun" from just over a mile.

The two pilots of an Apache use electronic systems to search for their targets in all

weathers and all battlefield conditions.

Apaches can also film a target area with a TV sensor, while concealed behind cover, and this played a significant role in the Gulf War in 1991 and is currently helping to keep the peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina, based at Tuzla in the north.

The structure of the Apache is designed to withstand hits from high-explosive rounds of up to 23mm calibre. Of greatest concern, however, will be the Yugoslav forces' portable, shoulder-launched, surface-to-air missiles.

The Apache can avoid the long-range systems by flying at low altitude, its radar signature hidden in the ground "clutter". But a single Yugoslav soldier with a man-pack Sam missile will be more difficult to avoid.

The 24 Apaches, and 2,600 American support troops, are to be part of what was yesterday called a "deep strike" package to be based in Albania.

The other ingredient will be 18 US Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS) which will have the ability to strike at targets all over Kosovo. Armed with the Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS), it has a range of more than 100 miles.

The combination of Apache and MLRS across the border in Albania will add a new firepower dimension to Nato's campaign, but it also expands the territory of the war, drawing in Albania and making it vulnerable to any Yugoslav attacks.

Several villages in the north of Albania were hit by Yugoslav shells earlier in the campaign. Now, the proposed positioning of such potent American weapons on its soil will make it imperative for the alliance to defend Albania for the length of the Nato campaign, and beyond.

## Hopes pinned to plane no one wanted

Nato's fabled tank-buster was almost left on the drawing board, Ian Brodie writes in Washington

JUST as they did in the Gulf War, military commanders have gratefully turned to the A10 Warthog as the only close ground support plane that can attack tanks, artillery and troops in Kosovo.

Ironically, the funny-looking A10 — ungainly, stubby and bulky — is the aircraft the US Air Force tried to kill. The production line was halted 13 years ago and by now all the A10s were supposed to be in retirement or farmed out to part-time National Guard units.

As it is, they were preparing to go into action today. Military sources said that in their initial foray the A10s would be hitting Serb tanks, yet again proving their worth at close range over much faster, high-flying fighter jets.

In the Gulf War, 174 A10s knocked out 1,200 of the 1,700 Iraqi tanks destroyed from the air and smashed 1,000 of the 1,200 artillery pieces. They also shot down two helicopters, went after Scud missile launchers, blew up bridges and roads and carried out search-and-rescue operations.

They could take a lot of punishment. There were nearly 400 shrapnel holes from an Iraqi ground-to-air missile in an A10 flown by Colonel David Sawyer of the

USAF. Both his engines and the tail were shredded, but he made it home.

Others limped back to base with part of a wing shot off, a hydraulic line dangling and the fuselage in holes. "Any other plane would have taken a dive with that kind of damage," said a Pentagon official. Five A10s were shot down, all at very low altitudes, the same number of F16s that were lost while flying much higher.

The A10 is not fast, sleek or sexy, but the punch it packs is formidable. Its seven-barrel, 30mm Gatling gun

can fire 70 armour-piercing bullets per second.

Some Iraqi tanks looked unscathed apart from a small puncture. A look inside, however, showed the destruction wrought by the fiery explosion from one A10 round. The A10 can also accurately deliver up to 16,000lb of laser-guided missiles and other bombs from racks slung under its wings and fuselage.

Flying at 300mph and at times below 1,000ft, the A10 is the most precise weapon in Nato's air arsenal.

The lone pilot has a titanium

metal "bathtub" beneath the cockpit to protect him from ground fire. There are duplicate flight controls in case one system is knocked out by enemy fire. The A10 is quiet, sounding more like a vacuum cleaner than a plane, with the result that troops do not hear it until it is almost on top of them.

The bubble canopy on the cockpit gives the pilot all-round vision. The A10 is also highly manoeuvrable, with an ability to turn sharply on one wing almost perpendicularly. Its official designation is Thunderbolt II, but every-

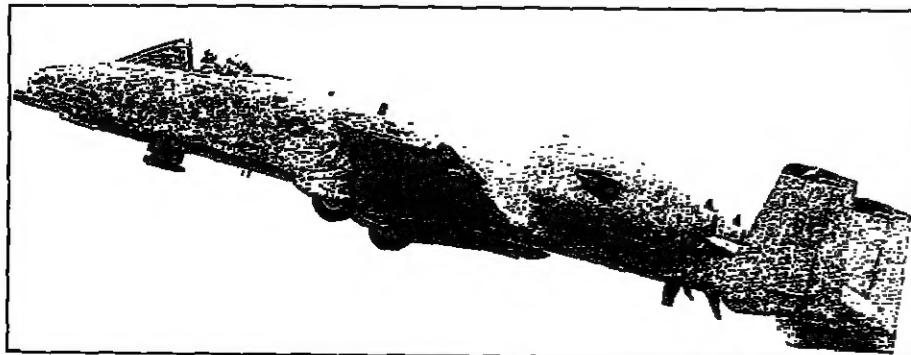
one uses its nickname Warthog, out of mockery and affection.

The A10's difficult birth in the 1970s was a classic of Pentagon in-fighting. Air force officers saw their way to promotion through advanced combat jets. No one wanted to be known for their work on close air support. Eventually the army decided to build its own support plane, finally forcing the air force to act.

The A10's small but devoted band of supporters took dramatic steps to prove their baby's value as a tank-buster. With Israeli help, they brought together Soviet tanks captured in the Middle East wars, amassing 500 in California. Then they filmed A10s shooting them up. In 550 passes, they knocked out 350 tanks, four times the number predicted.

Even so, the A10 was kept alive only by the demands of Joseph Addabbo, a powerful congressman from Long Island where the A10 was built. When he died in 1986, the air force stopped the programme in its tracks.

Today, however, the A10 is the only fighter with a guaranteed long-term future in the US Air Force. All the others have a phase-out date for when newer fighters are built.



The A10 Warthog was used as the scourge of Iraqi tanks during the Gulf War

## Clouds roll away and Harriers go hunting

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN GIOIA DEL COLLE

RAF HARRIER pilots have taken off in pursuit of Yugoslav mobile targets to bomb after the skies cleared to allow them to fly daylight operations without hindrance from bad weather.

Some flyers from No.1 Fighter Squadron waved from their cockpits at reporters watching on the edge of the runway at the Gioia del Colle base in southern Italy as six Harrier GR7s laden with bombs and missiles left in the bright sunshine that RAF planners had been awaiting for a week.

It was the first time that a daylight mission by the Harriers was not aborted because of weather conditions since the squadron began operations against Serb targets, an RAF spokesman Group Captain Ian Travers Smith said.

Once they were well into their sorties, pilots encountered a new kind of frustration when they learnt there were no suitable mobile targets to attack and they returned to base without dropping their bombs and without crossing into Yugoslav territory.

It was not disclosed what kind of mobile targets the Harriers were seeking but there was speculation it had been hoped to use them to bomb

some of the Serb troops or armour that had been surrounding villages in Kosovo and then driving out or killing civilian inhabitants.

"Their prime target today would have been mobile targets," the spokesman said. "During the period they were airborne no such opportunities presented themselves, so the Harriers returned with their bombs."

But the mission marked a "new phase" for the Harrier pilots, since clear weather daylight operations mean the pilots can see the ground but the enemy can also see them, the spokesman said.

The tension at the base was almost tangible after the Harrier pilots began taking off at 12.20pm, the high-pitched whine of their engines turning into a roar.

Afterwards ground crew wearing bush hats and head phones rode around the fields on bicycle or nervously revved up their tow jeeps until the aircraft began reappearing 90 minutes later and the pilots, again waving reassuringly or giving the thumbs-up sign as they touched down, were all safely landed and accounted for.

The Harriers arrived back

in pairs; one carried bombs and the other, whose task was to designate targets by laser, did not.

The pilots were then whisked off by bus to the squadron operations room to give brief mission reports that would be sent up the chain of command to strike command.

Then they were scheduled to spend up to three or four hours debriefing and analysing their flying with their operational commander.

Although no mobile targets were hit that time, their sorties were valuable experience, including another test of the strain of preparing to cross the border into enemy territory.

"The best moment is when you come back to this side of the border," Group Captain Travers Smith said. "It doesn't matter how long it takes to go out, but it always happens too quickly — each hour seems like a minute."

The determination of the pilots in the squadron to strike at the Serbs was evident from the doors of two portable latrines that had been erected near the Harrier hangars. One had been decorated with a label marked Slobodan while the other was designated for militia leader Arkan.



## Armed chiefs fear new Vietnam

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

US military chiefs warned President Clinton before the air campaign began that by itself it probably would not work and that they had serious reservations about becoming involved in Kosovo at all.

According to *The Washington Post*, General Hugh Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, led other senior commanders in questioning the basis for action in Kosovo. They are said to remain unconvinced that the air offensive will achieve its goal. But they are also extremely doubtful that ground troops should be introduced.

General Shelton and the heads of the services are acutely anxious that the US should not become embroiled in another Vietnam. Before airstrikes began, they challenged the "domino theory" outlined by Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, which maintained that losing Kosovo would destabilise the whole region. A similar argument was used over Vietnam.

Now they are unhappy about the escalation of the conflict, which they blame on bad weather and the need for Nato consensus on how to wage war. Such incremental increases in involvement were also characteristic of the Vietnam conflict.

The commanders had preferred that tougher non-military measures be given a chance to bite, including stringent economic sanctions.

# Hawkish Albright driven by family history

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

THE US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, knows about "ethnic cleansing": as a child she fled first Nazism and then Stalinism, as an adult she learned that her Jewish grandparents had perished in the Holocaust, and she is now pursuing a war in Kosovo as if on a personal crusade.

Ms Albright has long been seen as the most sharp-beaked of hawks within the US Administration, and it was largely her persistence that convinced President Clinton of the need for a bombing campaign, overriding the warnings of intelligence sources and the misgivings of senior military officials.

In Mr Clinton's own words: "She pushed and she pushed." But as the US and Nato enter the third week of bombardment with more military hardware pouring into the region, there are some who fear Ms Albright's own experiences and her feelings about her past, rather than considerations of diplomacy, may have pushed the alliance into a Balkan nightmare.

"Her personal history has taken over in Kosovo," one former associate told the US columnist Arianna Huffington. President Milosevic — former communist hardman, nationalist bigot and ethnic

cleanser — is an ogre tailor-made for Ms Albright, 62, whose own childhood and family fell victim to Europe's racial and ethnic animosities.

Ms Albright is one of the few diplomats addressing the humanitarian crisis at Kosovo's borders who knows what the life of a refugee is like. "We came to America after being driven twice from our home in Czechoslovakia, first by Hitler and then by Stalin," she said at her nomination ceremony.

The US Administration has consistently couched the Kosovo conflict in terms of genocide, comparing the actions of Mr Milosevic to those of Hitler. That language may be traced directly to the childhood experiences of the woman born Maria Jana Korbela.

Born in Prague in 1937, the daughter of Josef Korbela, a prominent Czech diplomat, she fled Czechoslovakia with her family when Hitler invaded in 1938, and spent the rest of the war in Kensington, then Walton-on-Thames. One of her earliest memories is of sitting under a steel table as bombs fell on London, and she makes no secret of the fact that, while most Americans look to Vietnam for an understanding of war, her focus is on an earlier conflict ignited



Madeleine Albright's critics say that her experiences as a victim of European conflicts have led her to see the Kosovo campaign as a crusade

by European dictatorship, aggression and ethnic hatred. "My mindset is Munich," she is fond of saying, for the memory of Neville Chamberlain's appeasement and its consequences for Czechoslovakia remain the defining component in her diplomatic philosophy. After the war, her father was appointed ambassador to Marshal Tito's Yugoslavia, where Madeleine was tutored by a governess to prevent her having contact with the loathed Communists.

In 1948, the family was again forced to flee Prague, this time when the Communists took over and stripped her father of his citizenship, to settle permanently in the US. Ms Albright's tumultuous

early life and hawkish inclinations place her in direct opposition to the so-called Powell doctrine, advocated by General Colin Powell, the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which holds that mili-

bo-Croat — one of her five languages — recalling how her family had been welcomed in Belgrade in her youth and insisting that Nato had no quarrel with the Serb people. She may have other memo-

attempted to skirt around a direct question on war crimes. "Don't give me that," Ms Albright shot back. "I'm from this region. I'm not naive."

A vigorous advocate of airstrikes against Bosnian Serbs,

origins, and the deaths of three grandparents and other family members in Nazi concentration camps, soon after her appointment as Secretary of State.

It was, she said with remarkable understatement, a "major surprise".

Michael Dobbs, the *Washington Post* journalist who revealed her Jewish roots, has already dubbed the US Secretary of State the "spiritual patron" of the Kosovo crisis. When historians assess why the bombs began falling in Yugoslavia they will recall not only the troubled and complex history of the region, but also that of Madeleine Albright.

Diary, page 18

**'We came to America after being driven twice from our home, first by Hitler and then Stalin'**

tary action needs an overriding threat to US interests, a clear goal and a knockout punch. Not surprisingly, Ms Albright has always regarded the Balkans as her special preserve. Last week she broadcast an appeal to the Serbs in Ser-

ries, too. Once she was accosted by a Serb woman who screamed: "Why are you so awful to the Serbs?" She replied, in the same language: "Because they are awful!"

Mr Milosevic himself was once left in no doubt when he

Ms Albright's determination to stand up to ethnic aggression must have been redoubled by the discovery, two years ago, that she was herself Jewish. Raised as a Roman Catholic, now an Episcopalian, Ms Albright learnt of her

## SURVIVAL

## CAN DEPEND

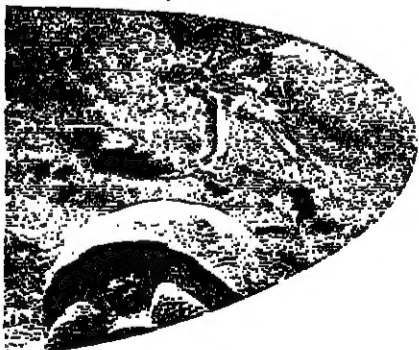
## ON SPEED

## OR PROTECTION.

## WE BELIEVE

## IT IS BETTER

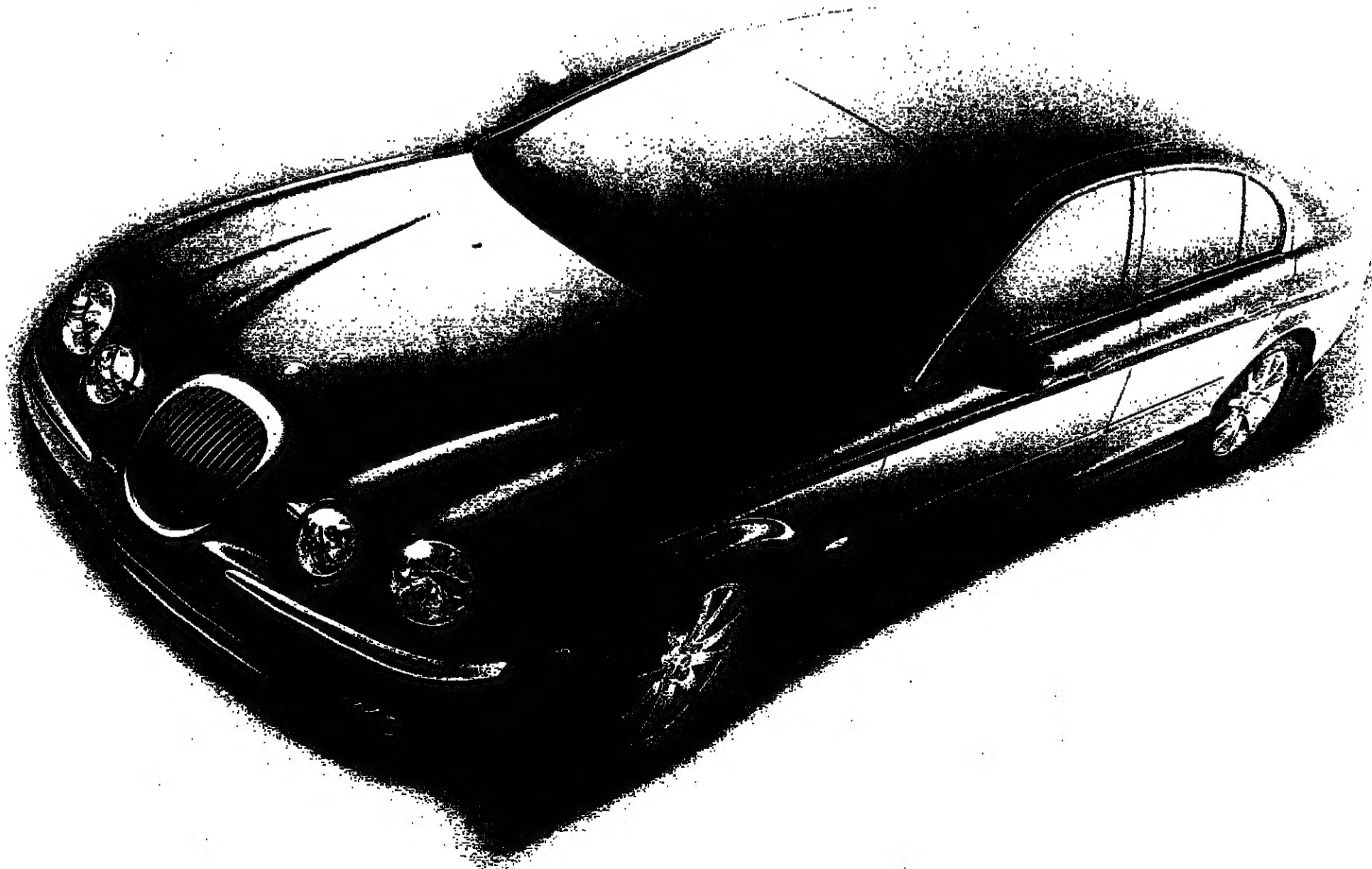
## TO HAVE BOTH.



Some cars are built to withstand accidents. The new Jaguar S-TYPE is also built to avoid them. With responsive handling. An anti-lock braking system. Dynamic Stability Control. The power to overtake safely. The agility to steer out of trouble. And Boron steel impact beams and front and side airbags. Just in case the car in the next lane isn't a Jaguar.

For information call 0800 70 80 60.

www.jaguar.com



THE NEW JAGUAR S-TYPE.

**JAGUAR**  
DON'T DREAM IT. DRIVE IT.







# Stag cull puts shine back on Golden Mile

A DRUNKEN young man throws a flurry of punches outside a nightclub in Blackpool. He is arrested immediately, bringing his part in the night-time pantomime of kiss-me-quick fun, frantic clubbing and laddish boozing to an abrupt end.

Still spitting indignation for the benefit of excited teenage girls, shivering in strapless party dresses in the cold Easter weekend night, the young man is ushered none too gently into a police car. He is destined to spend a night in the cells and become one more statistic in Operation Arrival. Launched by Lancashire Police ten days ago, its aim is to clean up the town's notorious Golden Mile, a sprawl of garishly lit pubs and clubs.

The quarter of a mile of coastline on either side of Blackpool Tower is the No 1 destination for stag and hen parties.

The revelers come to the town, a working-class fantasy land, to let their hair down. But in recent years their behaviour has descended into wild loutishness: groups of men drink in the streets, square up for fights, urinate in doorways and devise increasingly imaginative ways to celebrate the stag tradition. The victim, usually drunk and incapable, is often stripped and tied to a lamppost or car bumper with rolls of Cellophane. Around 2am, when up to 30,000 young people pour out of the clubs, streaking has become a ritual.

Police officers working on Operation Arrival swamp known troublespots at peak times — dozens of them, all highly visible in bright yellow jackets. Their brief is not to wait until trouble happens, but to steam in before it kicks off.

Even before the holiday weekend was over, the operation was being hailed as a success, with Lancashire Police de-

**Blackpool police are taking a tough line with louts giving the resort a bad name. Russell Jenkins watches them in action**

livering crime figures of which most chief constables can only dream: crime was down overall last month by 31 per cent. Detective Sergeant Pat Gill, recruited from the divisional intelligence unit, said the operation was being run like a major incident. An operations centre has been set up in the gym at headquarters. From here, up to 100 officers are despatched to the front line.

On Good Friday night, pubs such as Cahoots and Brannigans — motto "drinking, dancing, cavorting" — were spew-

**'We are saying to visitors that this is a nice, fun place'**

ing out noisy, drink-filled men in shirtsleeves, and even noisier girls, clutching bare arms to keep warm. As they moved from bar to club, heading for Heaven and Hell, Rumours, the Palace or Jellies, they passed under the watchful eye of uniformed police stationed at every 50 yards. The hopelessly drunk were

picked up; those carrying beer bottles were told to "get rid".

PC Simon Copley, 6ft 8in, stopped a man urinating in the doorway of Pricebusters. A man in a check shirt was thrown out of Cahoots, a new venue on the mile, for pouring beer on dancers from the balcony. "It's his stag party, but his friends are staying inside," PC Robin Hardiman said. "Some friends."

Minutes later, the two constables were on the scene when the young man started throwing punches outside Coral Island. Within seconds PC Copley was throwing his rugby player's bulk into the fray, slamming the offender against the shuttered doors of Mr B's

amusement centre. "This is typical of the kind of thing that happens: little skirmishes," PC Copley said. At one time they would have been warned and let go. "Now we arrest them. He will either have to be bound over or pay a small fine. The real punishment is a night in the cells and an appearance in court."

Superintendent Ian McPherson, the operations manager, said: "We are trying to go through an educational process with visitors. We are saying to them, 'This is nice fun place to be, but enjoy it in a safe way.' The officers are not there to be intimidating, but friendly and fair. It seems to be working."



Police patrols make themselves visible on the Golden Mile in Blackpool at night and are ready to put a stop to any mayhem as soon as it starts



The Golden Mile is a prime venue for hen parties

## Public invited to see royal bride arrive

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

PRINCE Edward and Sophie Rhys-Jones are to invite 2,000 members of the public inside the precincts of Windsor Castle for their wedding in June.

Applications are to be invited for tickets to view the couple entering and leaving St George's Chapel, spiritual home to the Order of the Garter, which stands inside the castle walls.

More than 500 guests have been invited to the service, including Tony and Cherie Blair, Lord Lloyd-Webber, Chris Tarrant and Billy Connolly. The wedding will be conducted by the Right Rev Peter Nott, Bishop of Norwich, who has become a close friend during the couple's visits to Sandringham, which lies within his diocese.

The 2,000 members of the public will be allowed to stand in the lower ward area of the castle precincts, the area that is normally open to the public. Buckingham Palace will give details of how to obtain tickets in the next few weeks.

The concept of public access to the ceremony has been borrowed from the annual Garter Day Service at St George's, which is attended by the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh. This year it will be held on June 14, five days before the wedding.

The Garter, the oldest extant monarchical order of

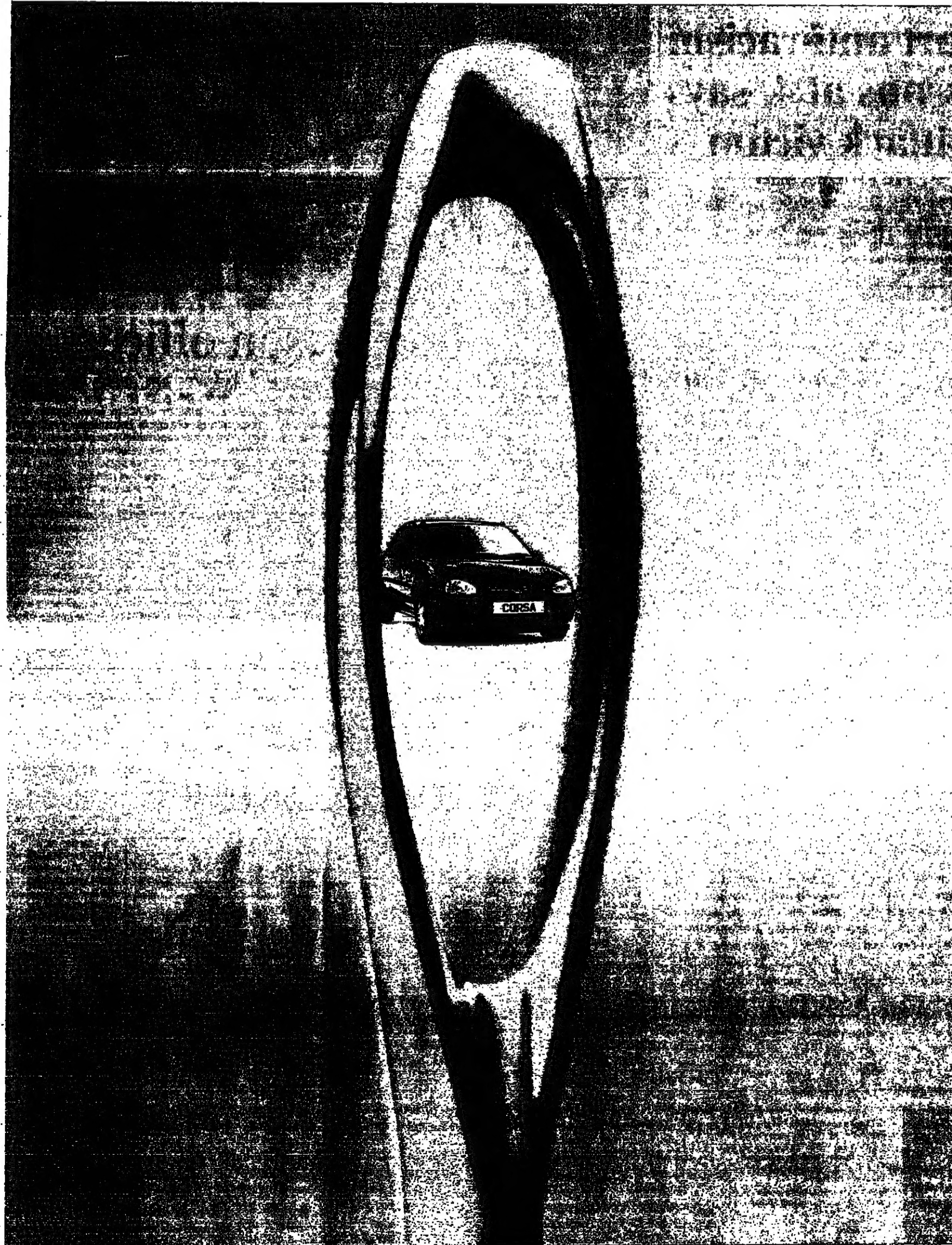
chivalry, was founded by Edward III in 1348 after the capture of Calais, with King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table in mind. On Garter Day, 2,000 members of the public are invited into the castle precincts to watch the arrival and departure of members of the Royal Family as well as the 24 Knight Companions with the Royal Knights, Foreign Knights and Ladies of the order.

The couple, both 34, had hoped to keep the wedding as private as possible. Prince Edward's television company, Ardent Productions, is expected to film the ceremony for broadcast, with the profits going to a new charitable trust under the control of the couple.

Helen Rumbelow, page 18



St George's Chapel: 500 guests will be inside



£8,200 (inc power steering)

PRICE ALSO INCLUDES:

CENTRAL LOCKING

AIRBAG

4 SPEAKER RADIO CASSETTE

0% 1 YEAR 9% FINANCE

LOTUS SUSPENSION

CORSA CLUB.



**VAUXHALL**  
Raising the Standard

Prices quoted at time of going to press. Finance example: Corsa Club 1.6 12V £8,200 (which includes Vauxhall's on-the-road package of £525, 12 months road fund licence of £25 and DVLA registration fee of £25), 40% deposit £3,280, 12 monthly instalments £500. Total amount payable £8,200. APR 9%. Offer applies to Corsa Club and CDX models ordered between 25th February and 30th April 1999. Available to private individuals, mobility customers Vauxhall Finance (including Personal Contract Finance) and non-VAT registered businesses. All other sales contracts excluded. All figures offer subject to status, availability and conditions. Commission must be paid over 18. Written quotations available from Vauxhall Finance, 19 Chapel Street, Llanelli. A guarantee may be required. For details of your nearest dealer or to order a brochure call Vauxhall Motors on 0345 480 800.



# Strike plan to save teachers at bad schools

By JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR

THE largest classroom union agreed a programme of strikes yesterday designed to prevent teachers in failing schools from being sacked.

Hundreds of teachers in schools that make insufficient progress within two years of failing an inspection are having to apply for their own posts under the Government's "Fresh Start" scheme. Most lose their jobs, the annual conference of the National Union of Teachers was told, as schools are restructured under new leadership.

The Government's programme aims to rescue failing schools by closing them and reopening them under a new name. But delegates at the conference agreed unanimously to ballot for industrial action if the policy led to redundancies among teachers.

Doug McAvoy, the NUT's general secretary, told the meeting in Brighton that teachers in failing schools, far from

## TEAMWORK PLEA

The president of the second biggest teaching union called yesterday for "teamwork and sharing" rather than confrontation with the Government. Bill Morley, president of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, made his speech calling for a spirit of mutual accommodation at the opening of the organisation's annual conference in Eastbourne.

being sacked, should be paid more than their colleagues elsewhere. "It is difficult to imagine a teacher who would want to apply for a job in a school that is in need of special measures."

"Who would want to apply for a job if the likelihood was that the teachers would do their best to turn round the school, yet face the prospect of

a clearout of staff if it doesn't come out of special measures?"

Kevin Doherty told delegates that he had been made redundant from George Orwell School, in Islington, North London, and the majority of his colleagues had not applied for their jobs back when the local authority decided to close the school and turn it into an arts and media college. "Can you imagine what it has been like for those pupils in schools that have known they are going to be closed down over a period of a year? It has been extremely unsettling."

Anne Antonio, of the Brighton and Hove branch, said that only three of the 43 teachers at Marina High School had been guaranteed their jobs under a Fresh Start scheme. "Our members are facing redundancy. How many more around the country will face them same?"

When Marina High was the Stanley Deason School, in the 1980s, it was popular with the middle-class residents of Kemptown, Brighton, but the demand for places has dwindled since it failed an inspection in 1996. A new head teacher was appointed last week and the classroom posts will be filled soon.

Andrew Swainston, of Lambeth in South London, said Lillian Bayliss School, one of 18 to be "named and shamed" by ministers shortly after the Government came to power, was being restructured under the Fresh Start programme. None of the teachers applying for their old jobs had so far been guaranteed employment in September.

Mr Swainston said that, five years ago, black teachers had formed more than half the staff of the school. By September, there would be none on full-time contracts.

Martin Reed, for the union's executive, said that the Government's approach was scapegoating teachers for more deep-seated problems. "Fresh Start is a con. It's a betrayal of the education service, a betrayal of teachers and, more than anything, it is a betrayal of children in those schools."

In a separate debate, delegates restated the union's claim for the equivalent of a four-day week to give teachers more time to prepare lessons and mark work.

The demand comes as part of the cross-union campaign for a national contract for teachers, guaranteeing low class sizes and a break every two hours.

## Start anti-racism lessons at 4, says attack victim

By OUR EDUCATION EDITOR

A BLACK teacher who was the victim of a violent racist attack at her South London primary school called yesterday for anti-racist education from the age of four.

Alison Moore, who addressed the National Union of Teachers' conference with her arm in a sling as a result of injuries sustained in the attack 14 months ago, told delegates that she had not recovered psychologically, either. Having told the conference in an emotional address a year ago that she was looking forward to returning to school, she still had not been able to do so on a permanent basis.

The 31-year-old teacher was attacked in the playground by four white youths after staying late at Sandhurst Junior school, in Lewisham. She has since had death threats and had National Front slogans daubed on her front door.

Ms Moore told a fringe meeting that children should receive anti-racist education "from reception class to university". Lessons should include

African history and awareness of other cultures, including their music and food.

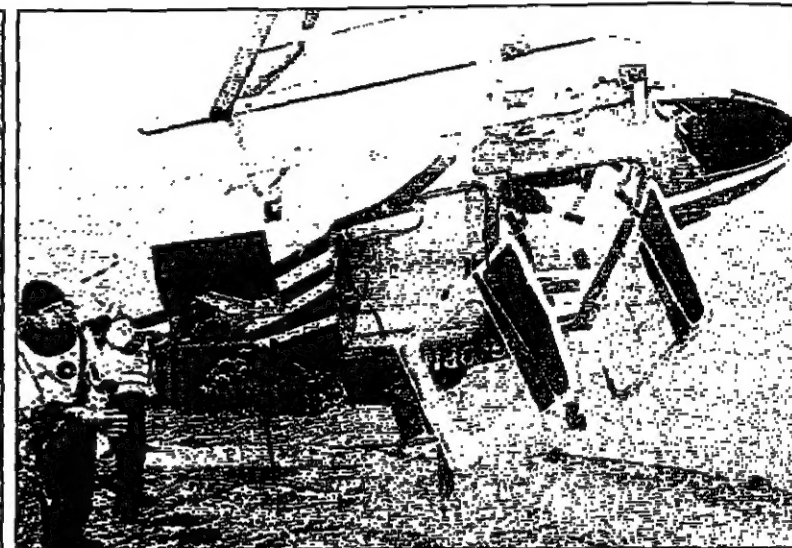
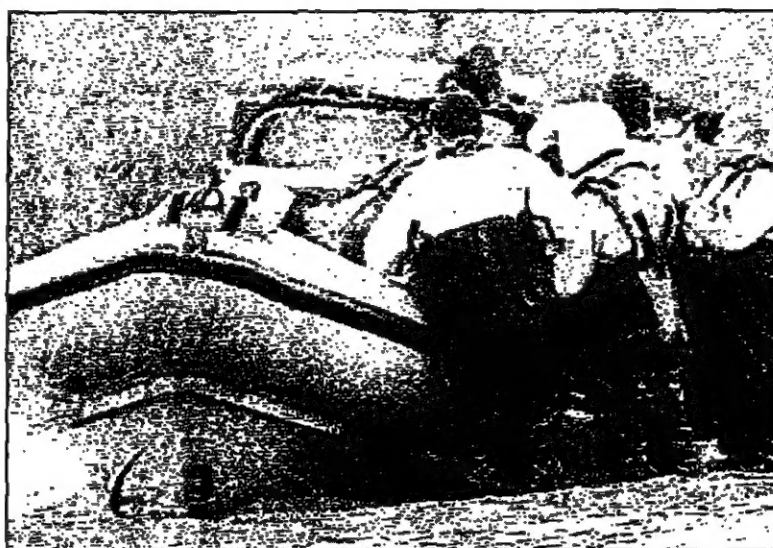
"Even the most hard-core racists go out at the weekend to have a curry," Ms Moore said. "Why are they having curry or buying Chinese food? It is because we are contributing to society, and that needs to be stressed so that some myths can be eradicated."

Ms Moore added: "Black people did not come to England to take people's jobs or take away members of the opposite sex or drain the social security system. We are here because we were invited here. We are here because hundreds of years ago Britain went into what is now called the Third World and plundered it, as well as taking people as slaves."

The conference unanimously backed a motion calling for the national curriculum to include anti-racism as an integral and explicit part. It also demanded that teacher training courses be revised to include the subject.



Air-sea rescue: the lifeboat crew return with the two survivors from the helicopter that crashed off Lyme Regis yesterday, bottom left, and then carry ashore Lisa Burgess, the injured pregnant woman, above. The helicopter, below right, was later recovered from the sea. Full story, page 1



## Freemason officers are given ultimatum

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

JACK STRAW has given chief constables three weeks to set up voluntary registers for police officers to declare whether they are Freemasons.

The Home Secretary's demand comes as a survey by *The Times* found that only a small minority of forces have responded to growing pressure from MPs and ministers for action to ease public anxiety about the influence of Freemasons in the justice system.

Today all 43 forces in England and Wales will receive a letter from Mr Straw urging them to have registers in place by the end of this month. Home Office officials say that, if forces do not set them up, or officers do not sign them, the Home Secretary will legislate for compulsory registers. The reg-

isters would be used to investigate complaints of bias or corruption.

Three years ago, chief constables accepted that police should be more open about Freemasonry, but the *Times* survey found that just two forces had registers for all ranks. Two others had them only for senior officers and five more were putting registers in place, but others have no plans to monitor Masonic membership.

The voluntary registers are seen by the Home Office as a way of testing how well checks can work before a decision is taken on the next move. Mr Straw also plans changes so that all police recruits will have to declare whether

they are Freemasons, and legislation to open registers to public inspection.

But the *Times* survey shows that many chief constables will not act unless the registers are compulsory. The survey brought a response from 35 forces, of which 25 have no plans for registers. Only the Derbyshire force and Avon and Somerset have registers. The Derbyshire register has one entry out of a force strength of 1,700.

South Wales has a register for high-ranking officers. Dyfed-Powys has a register for all officers from the rank of superintendent upwards, but no one is registered as a Freemason. The Sussex force is launching a policy that officers

cannot have undeclared interests and they are to sign individual statements.

Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, attacked police membership of lodges three years ago. His force is planning a register, as are Devon and Cornwall, Herefordshire, Merseyside and North Wales.

The forces without plans for registers include Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, City of London, Cumbria, Dorset, Durham, Essex, Greater Manchester, Hampshire, Humberside, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Northumbria, South Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Warwickshire, West Mercia, West Midlands, West Yorkshire and Wiltshire.



## Be relaxed in French comfortable in German assured in Spanish

If you've already made a start in one of these languages, we'll help you grow in confidence. We'll do more than simply teach you the words. You'll learn to express yourself authentically, with subtlety and sensitivity. All you need is a knowledge of French, German or Spanish to the equivalent of GCSE standard and we'll give you all the support you need, including a personal tutor and the chance to meet your fellow students. We can send you a diagnostic test so you can tell if you're up to speed and we have a warm up pack if you feel uncertain. The quality is exceptional and the experience is unforgettable.

### Did you know?

- The OU Centre for Modern Languages is the largest provider of language courses in the UK.
- The OU is ranked in the top 15% of all UK universities for its teaching quality.
- Your language course could count towards a diploma or degree.
- Many courses include the option of a residential summer school abroad.

\*Source: Daily Telegraph. Based on percentage of departments rated "excellent" in survey of 1997/98. Out of 34 in the higher Education Funding Council.

### Send for your free prospectus now.

Send to: The Open University, PO Box 625, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA

☐ Please send me details of your language courses.

☐ Tick here if you have contacted the OU in the past.

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ /19 \_\_\_\_\_

OU Hotline (24 hours) 0870 9000 301

Website: <http://www.open.ac.uk/>

THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE OU EXPERIENCE

## Police praise both sides for peaceful start to parades

By AUDREY MAGEE

THE first of the year's loyalist parades passed off peacefully in Belfast yesterday after nationalist residents agreed to call off protests. The new spirit of compromise, bolstered hopes that the 3,000 parades during the marching season would be largely trouble-free.

The Apprentice Boys parade along the mainly nationalist Lower Ormeau Road in South Belfast has ended in violence in recent years. The mood yesterday was very different and police praised both sides for their restraint; community leaders hoped it would set an example.

The Apprentice Boys have paraded along the Lower Ormeau Road since 1904. However, nationalist residents have disputed their right to march, leading to a ban on the parade since 1995. It was banned again this year by the Parades Commission and nationalists, in an act of reconciliation, abandoned their plans to hold a 15-hour counter-demonstration. Instead, they stayed at home as police at a lightly manned barricade waited for the arrival at 11am of 30 members of the Ballynareigh Club, walking towards the city centre to join thousands of other Apprentice Boys in the annual Easter Monday parade.

The Ballynareigh Apprentice Boys marched peacefully to the barrier and handed in a letter of protest to the police. Tommy Cheevers, a leading member, said: "It is so disap-



Apprentice Boys making their way to the barricade

pointing that [at a time when] we are trying to bring about change in our country, a bit more tolerance, a bit better understanding of each other, that the people now running away from dialogue are the residents."

The Apprentice Boys, who were then based to the centre of Belfast, offered to hold talks with residents to resolve the dispute. However, Gerard Rice of the Lower Ormeau Residents Committee dismissed a suggestion of talks as a "fabrication".

Despite the bickering, police and community leaders were delighted that the parade passed off peacefully. The RUC praised both sides "for managing to reach a peaceful compromise", while community leaders hoped the outcome would serve as guidance to the half dozen highly controver-

sial parades to be held across Northern Ireland this summer.

The most difficult is at Drumcree in Portadown, where Orangemen are still camped out, demanding the right to walk down the nationalist Garvaghy Road. The men have been there since early last July.

The Government is making behind-the-scenes attempts to resolve the standoff. Tony Blair met both sides in the dispute last week during his marathon session of talks at Hillsborough Castle.

David Trimble, the First Minister and leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, is under increasing pressure to meet the residents of Garvaghy Road, which forms part of his constituency, in an attempt to defuse the potential for serious conflict this summer.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Banks open for savings deadline

Banks stayed open yesterday to cope with savers aiming to beat the midnight deadline for Peps and Tessas. Pep sales for March were up by about 30 per cent on last year, the Halifax said. About £1.5 billion has flooded the stock market in ten days, and could push it to a new high tomorrow. *Isa demand, page 44*

#### Boy, 2, drowns

A boy aged two drowned after falling from a pleasure boat into the Thames. He had been playing with his brother and sister while their father, from Windsor, renovated the vessel at Donnington Bridge.

#### Presenter moved

The broadcaster Sheena McDonald, who was seriously injured when she was hit by a police van in London in February, has been transferred to a hospital in her home town of Edinburgh.

#### Pate withdrawn

Safeway has withdrawn a make of Belgian pâté after customers in Herne Bay, Kent, had symptoms of food poisoning. Shops are telling customers not to eat the delicatessen's Farmhouse Pâté.

#### Ratted on poteen

Irish police found dead rats in a vat of poteen during a raid on an illegal distillery in a remote part of Co Donegal. Inspector Greg Sullivan said: "This is a warning to anyone not to touch the stuff."

### PLEASE HELP THEM



For the past seven months, International Care and Relief has been a leading aid agency assisting over 40,000 Kosovo refugees. Our Emergency Relief Fund is now braced for unprecedented demand as Nato begin strikes. ICR is now preparing for the worst, as a mass exodus of refugees takes place. Anthony Loyd's daily reports in *The Times* have graphically described the terrible suffering that has been endured by the people of Kosovo. ICR has already assisted over 40,000 Kosovo refugees who fled to neighbouring Montenegro, their homes and livelihoods destroyed. We are now appealing to you for donations which are urgently needed to provide emergency relief supplies. Our partner agency's trucks are waiting in Italy so that emergency aid can be transported to refugee areas as quickly as possible. Thank you.

### ICR KOSOVO APPEAL 01892-519619

24 HR CREDIT CARD DONATION LINE

Please make your cheque/postal order payable to ICR

£250 ☐ £100 ☐ £50 ☐ £20 ☐ Other ☐

Or debit my MasterCard/Visa/CAF card:

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Full name & address in CAPITALS \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

FREEPOST TW 3028, 27 Church Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN11 1BR

Registered Charity No 238316



# MSPs will demand more pay

Jason Allardyce on calls for Holyrood salaries to equal those of MPs

MEMBERS of the Scottish parliament are to use its historic first term to demand a 15 per cent pay increase on their £40,000 salaries.

Tory Liberal Democrats and Scottish Nationalists plan to fight a pay settlement approved by the Government because it would give MSPs a basic salary £6,000 less than that paid to Westminster MPs. The opposition parties claim that the Senior Salaries Review Board settlement accepted by Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, last week showed "contempt" for the new administration.

Because no single party is likely to emerge with a majority, Labour is likely to be outvoted on the issue. The Liberal Democrat MP Donald

Gorrie, who is standing for Holyrood, said that MSPs deserved as much as Members at Westminster because they would be at least as busy. He said: "I am sure this matter will be raised in the parliament early on. I will certainly support parity with Westminster."

Mr Gorrie is also furious that the Government has agreed an allowance limit for office and staff of £39,000 a year, £10,000 less than at Westminster. "I suspect an edict has gone out that no impression may be created that Holyrood is on a par with Westminster," he said.

Party spokesmen for the Tories

and the Scottish National Party confirmed that they would support moves in Holyrood to bring MSP pay into line with that of their Westminster counterparts. MSPs are expected to clock up between 900 and 1,000 hours a year, compared with the 1,300 of Westminster MPs.

A move by MSPs to declare Scotland a nuclear-free zone could lead to constitutional tensions between London and Edinburgh. A powerful cross-party alliance of candidates likely to be elected to Holyrood has agreed to back a motion calling for the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from Scotland, including three Tri-

dent submarines based at Faslane near Glasgow.

The anti-nuclear group includes five Labour candidates likely to be elected, and Scottish National Party candidates who expect around 45 of their number to win seats. Several Liberal Democrat candidates have also promised to back the motion, which was suggested by Scottish CND. It could be enough to tip the balance, in a vote, against Labour and Tory MSPs who will argue that Britain must retain its nuclear deterrent and keep it in Scotland.

Although responsibility for nuclear weapons is reserved at Westminster,

losing a Holyrood vote on the issue would be a blow for the Prime Minister and Mr Dewar, who is likely to lead the Scottish parliament.

Anti-nuclear campaigners believe a successful vote in Holyrood would send a powerful message to the Ministry of Defence. The SNP has given warning that it may seek to embarrass the MoD further by holding a referendum on the issue in Scotland.

Johann Lamont, a Labour candidate and CND member in Glasgow, said she would back an anti-nuclear motion and call for the parliament to initiate a debate on nuclear disarmament. She said that it was still the policy of the Scottish Labour Party to oppose Trident and that Labour MSPs should reflect the views of the party.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Mustard gas found on tip

Chemical warfare agents including mustard gas and phosgene have been unearthed in a Wiltshire village. More than 100 glass phials were found in an old rubbish tip 400 metres from cottages at Winterbourne Gunner. Staff at the Chemical and Biological Defence Centre at Porton Down have confirmed that the containers were full of liquid containing chemical warfare compounds. It is believed the phials date from before the Second World War. Troops from a specialist ordnance disposal unit of the Royal Engineers have been working for months to check fields around the village for buried munitions. They say the area is likely to contain other rubbish pits. An army spokesman said scientists had calculated that the risk from a leak or breakage of any of the containers would have extended only about 50 metres from the pit, which is on a ministry land.

### Police seize £20m drugs Child murder plot remands

Four men were arrested when police seized drugs worth £20 million as they were being transferred to a van at a layby near Newark, Nottinghamshire, from a lorry that had travelled from the Continent. Among the haul were 250kg of cocaine and amphetamines and 100kg of cannabis resin. A National Investigation Services spokesman said: "This is without question one of the biggest ever drugs hauls in Britain." Police had followed the van from the North West. The four men will appear in court in Manchester.

Two men were remanded in custody yesterday charged with plotting to kill young girls. Paul Thomas Elkington, 46, and Michael Williams, 49, were both remanded to reappear at Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court on April 13. Elkington, of no fixed abode, and Williams, of Wolverhampton, appeared before Stipendiary Magistrate Roman Bereza, charged with conspiracy to murder female children aged between two and seven on a date between March 29 and April 3 this year.

### Memorably card sharp

A labourer who can recite every word in the Book of Revelation is expected to be named in the next edition of *The Guinness Book of Records* for memorising a pack of shuffled cards. John Burrows, 37, of Towyrefail, South Wales, memorised all 52 cards in a freshly shuffled pack in 34.35 seconds. He has moved on to his local telephone directory, from which he can remember all the names and numbers up to 11. He started memory training in 1986 to give him the edge in poker games.

### Cheese chase Yemen trial is back on ultimatum

The annual cheeserolling races down a hillside in Gloucestershire are to resume in May after being cancelled last year because of safety fears. In 1997 there were 33 casualties as people taking part in the four races at Cooper's Hill, near Cheltenham, came to grief. Now the cheeserolling committee says it has made proper safety provisions for the event on Spring Bank Holiday Monday, when about 40 people at a time will pursue a 7lb Double Gloucester down the hill. The event attracts about 5,000 spectators.

The judge in the Yemen case against eight Britons accused of terrorism told defence lawyers to end their boycott of proceedings before the trial begins tomorrow. Judge Jamal Muhammad Omar said: "If they do not, other lawyers will be chosen." The seven lawyers pulled out of the trial a week ago in protest at not being allowed to meet their clients privately in prison. Tony Blair has written to the Yemeni Government calling for the suspects to be examined by doctors, and for the lawyers to be allowed access.

### Baby's year catching up



She is a year old, but at 5lb Kallie Rogers weighs just over the average for a newborn baby. Kallie, above, was given only hours to live after being delivered three months prematurely, weighing 12oz. Her mother, Sheila, of Heathfield, Devon, said: "Her skin was almost transparent, like cling-film only a muddy colour. We refused to give up hope that she would survive." Kallie faces years of medication for her weak liver and kidney but, despite her newborn appearance, is struggling to act like any other one-year-old. She has cut her first tooth and is trying to crawl.

### New Year baby race sparks rush on chemists

BY ELEN RUMBLOW

THE first clear evidence of a millennium baby boom has come from record sales in family planning products as the key day approach.

If a couple want to become parents on New Year's Day, the ideal time for conception is this week. Most experts consider Friday to be the best date.

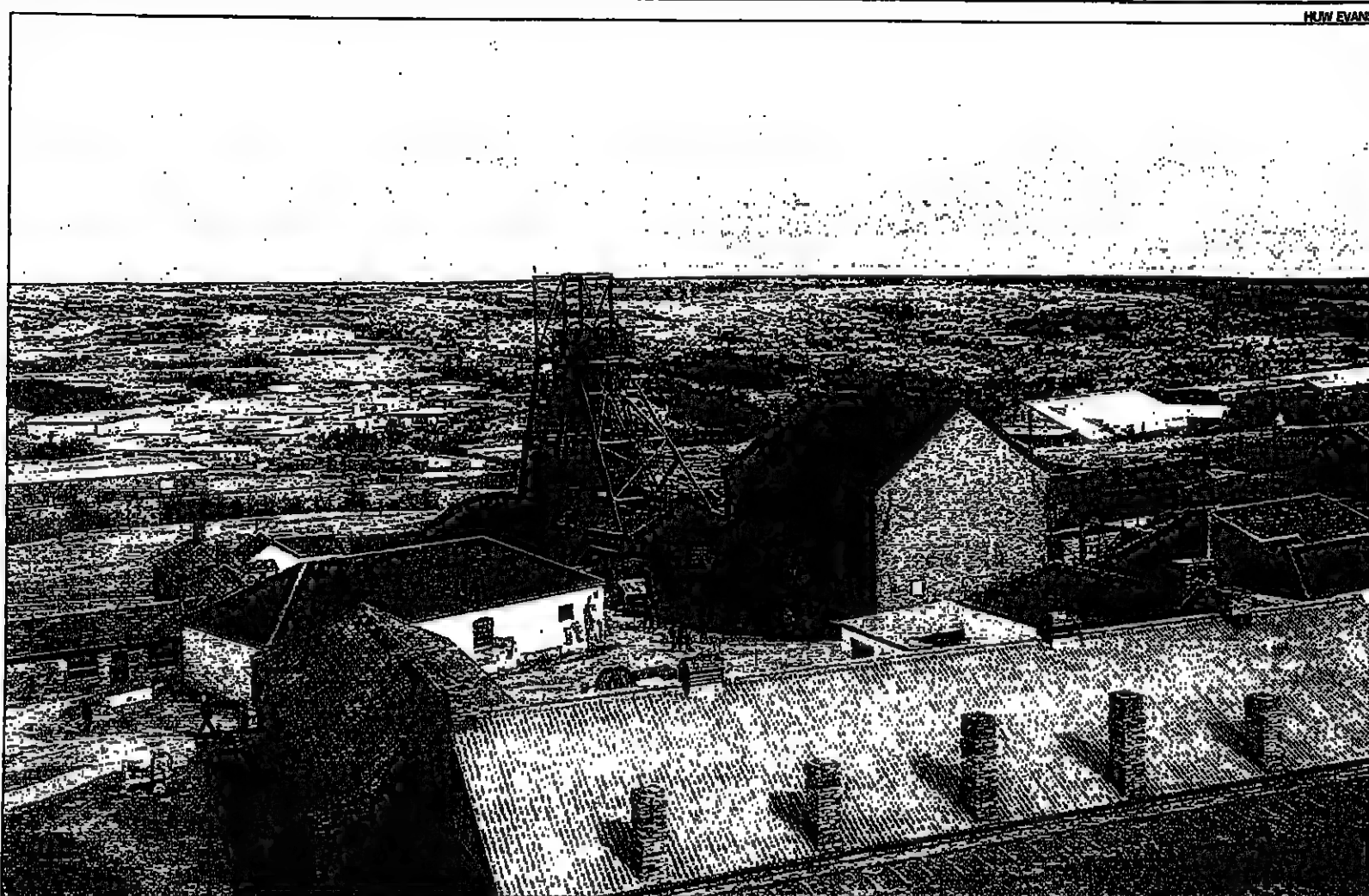
Cheists have reported large laps in sales of certain products connected to planned parenthood: folic acid tablets, ovulation prediction tests and pregnancy tests. However, family planners gave a warning yesterday against decisions based on novelty, rather than genuine care.

The Superdrug chain of pharmacies is waiving the £5.99 fee for its pregnancy testing kit between April 10 and May 7. Among other businesses promoting the millennium baby boom is Yorkshire Television, which will show a night of programmes called *Birth Race 2000* on Saturday night. A website called Babyworld is trying to recruit couples so that it can show a millennium birth live on the Internet.

The Family Planning Association is starting a campaign this week, entitled "A baby is to life, not just for the millennium." It comes after hospitals give warnings that their standards of care would be reduced because of the demands of a new year baby boom.

Having a millennium baby is very romantic notion, but reality will be very different, a spokesman for the association said. "If you really want a child, why not give it a better chance in life by planning for it later in the year, when the system will not be dangerously overloaded?"

www.babycare.co.uk ITN millennium bar site, with links to Babyworld



Blaenavon's industrial landscape is dominated by the winding gear of Big Pit, a conserved coalmine that is open to visits from the public

## Blaenavon: Taj Mahal of the Valleys

Valerie Elliott on unlikely world heritage site

A FORMER ironworking and coal mining area in South Wales is being put forward as a world heritage site. If successful, it would share the same international status as the Taj Mahal, the Great Wall of China and Venice.

The Blaenavon industrial landscape in Torfaen has been selected by Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, to compete for the honour awarded by Unesco. The site is distinguished by four massive hillside furnaces — vestiges of its former industrial heyday — and Big Pit, a conserved mine now open to visitors. It has jumped ahead of the Lake District, the New Forest, Shakespeare's Stratford and the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, West London, in the list of British sites being considered by ministers.

Among landmarks already boasting the coveted status are Stonehenge and

Avebury, Blenheim Palace and Park, the Tower of London, the City of Bath, Ironbridge Gorge and Hadrian's Wall military zone. World heritage status is a huge boost to tourism.

Blaenavon, at the head of the South Wales Valleys, may seem an unlikely choice. But the Government was told by Unesco officials to steer clear of palaces, cathedrals and historic towns and to come up with places linked to industrial heritage or natural landscapes.

Blaenavon's industrial past dates from the late 16th century, when the area was crossed by a horse-drawn railway. The landscape also includes a stretch of the Brecknock and Abergavenny Canal and Britain's oldest exist-

ing railway and canal interchange warehouses, which date from 1810-20.

Mr Smith said last night that the site was of a type "generally under-represented on the current world heritage list". He accepted that people campaigning for other British sites would be disappointed, but said that he would put forward the Dorset and East Devon coast and the historic village of New Lanark for world heritage status to mark the millennium.

Mr Smith also has responsibility for choosing sites in British overseas territories and has picked the town of St George, Bermuda, to be submitted with Blaenavon this year.

The full list of sites drawn up by Mr

Smith for consideration for nomination by Britain for world heritage status in the next five to ten years is:

Chatham naval base, Kent; the Cornish mining industry; Darwin's home and workplace; the Derwent Valley; Dorset and East Devon coast; Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; the Lake District; Liverpool commercial centre and waterfront; Manchester and Salford; the Monkwearmouth/Jarrow monastic sites; the New Forest; the Paddington/Bristol railway; Saltire; Shakespeare's Stratford; the Wash and North Norfolk coast; the Cairngorms; the Flow Country; the Forth rail bridge; New Lanark; Pontcysyllte aqueduct; Wrexham; Mount Stewart, Co Down.

From the overseas territories he has chosen Anguilla, Fountain Cavern and Gibraltar Fortress.

## Outlook for 2001 is floods, fires and record heat

By NICK NUTTALL  
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

RECORD temperatures are being forecast for the start of the new millennium because of global warming.

Scientists estimate that rising carbon dioxide levels, aggravated by a sudden return of El Niño, will push temperatures in 2001 or 2002 beyond those of last year, the previous hottest.

Experts are saying that the high temperatures will increase the risk of natural disasters. Phil Jones, of the cli-

matic research unit at the University of East Anglia, an adviser to the Government on climate change, gave a warning yesterday of hurricanes in Mexico and parts of the South Pacific, and violent storms in the Eastern Pacific and places such as California, Peru and Ecuador. Severe floods, linked with warmer-than-average winter temperatures, could hit Britain and the rest of Europe.

He said the severity of the weather systems could be the most violent in modern times "because there will be

more energy in the system. There may also be extreme droughts in places such as Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and parts of Australia," said Professor Jones, whose unit works with the Meteorological Office's Hadley Centre to compile global temperature patterns.

Forest fires of the kind that recently destroyed more than four million hectares in northern Brazil, two million hectares in the Khabarovsk district of Russia and large areas of Indonesia may flare up. Professor Jones said:

"If nothing is done a lot of the forest fires in places such as Sumatra and Borneo are likely to recur, along with regional smogs."

There is also concern for corals, vital nurseries for fish and natural sea defences for low-lying islands such as the Maldives. Last year large numbers of reefs were killed by unusually high sea-surface temperatures.

The forecast is based on rising levels of greenhouse gases, temperature trends during the past 40 years, and mounting evidence that El Niño

is becoming more frequent and more severe. Professor Jones said it now seemed likely that the next El Niño will hit in 2001 or 2002, helping to make that year "probably the warmest for more than a millennium".

The warnings come as leading academics, environmentalists, politicians and churchmen have signed a declaration urging governments to agree a cut of 70 to 80 per cent in carbon emissions on 1990 levels.

Forecast, page 22

**Loyalty isn't something you hire. It's something you create.**

Helping you put the human into human resources

Staff who believe the company genuinely cares for their welfare tend to be more committed in return.

As innovators of one of the most successful staff benefit schemes ever — the original Luncheon Vouchers — commitment is something we know a lot about.

In fact, Accor Corporate Services has a range of schemes that enable companies to improve motivation and morale by tailoring benefits to the individual, with the added attraction of savings on tax or national insurance.

For example, our Eyecare Voucher helps companies meet the legal requirement of paying for eye tests for staff working with VDU screens.

Our Childcare Vouchers are a perfect way for companies to help staff who face the special demands of caring for young children.

And our Familylife Solutions provides a one-stop helpline on virtually any problem that a modern family might face.

So if you want to make the most of your most important asset, Accor Corporate Services are here to help.

Contact us for further information. Tel: 0800 917 6026. email: acc@accor-services.co.uk

**Luncheon Vouchers.**

**Eyecare Vouchers.**

**Childcare Vouchers.**

**Familylife Solutions.**

**ACCOR**  
CORPORATE SERVICES



# New faces tipped to join Cabinet



Reid: Blairite in Prescott's team

JOHN REID and Paul Murphy have emerged as strong candidates to enter the Cabinet when Tony Blair makes his next reshuffle over the coming three months.

Dr Reid, currently Transport Minister, is a leading Blairite in John Prescott's predominantly old Labour Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions. Mr Murphy is given much credit in Whitehall for his strong performance as one of Mo Mowlam's deputies at the Northern Ireland Office. The two ministers could figure in what the Prime Minister intends to be a limited reconstruction after the Scottish and Welsh elections.

The overall size of the changes that the Prime Minister makes to the Government makes this summer could depend on discussions he is expected to have with Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary. According to government insiders, Mr Dobson and Dr Mowlam are Mr Blair's preferred choices as Labour candidate to become Mayor of London.

Mr Blair has left open the door for a leading business figure to come forward as the Labour nominee. But no plausible candidate from the business world has appeared and there is widespread expectation that Mr Blair will tell Mr Dobson that he wants him to become the capital's

## Philip Webster reports on the reshuffle that is likely to follow Scots and Welsh elections

first elected mayor, a post that will be one of the most powerful in the country.

Mr Dobson is privately resistant to the idea, but many believe that he will, in the end, be persuaded. Dr Mowlam, a very popular figure, is also understood to be a choice highly favoured in Downing Street. But she is believed to be looking for a central role in government when her time in the Province ends.

Mr Blair believes that either of them would be far more popular with London voters than Ken Livingstone, the last leader of the Greater London Council, who is still struggling to become the Labour candidate amid signals that he will be kept

off the list that will go before the party's London members to decide the choice.

Mr Murphy is thought to be in line for the post of Welsh Secretary if Alun Michael becomes First Minister after the elections to the new assembly. Similarly, the post of Scottish Secretary will be vacant if Donald Dewar sees off the Scottish Nationalist challenge to become First Minister in Scotland.

After the elections the Scottish and Welsh Offices will be scaled down, with fewer ministerial posts. Peter Hain, one of the junior Welsh Office ministers, is expected to be promoted, partly as reward for his central role in the campaign

to get Mr Michael chosen as the Labour candidate for First Minister, after Ron Davies stepped down.

Helen Liddell, one of Mr Dewar's deputies, who has been playing a leading role in the Scottish campaign, is in the running to be Scottish Secretary, but she may be edged out by Brian Wilson, currently a minister at Trade and Industry.

Mr Blair is widely expected to leave his Big Four ministers — Mr Prescott, Robin Cook, Jack Straw and Gordon Brown — in their jobs until the general election. With Stephen Byers having moved to the Department of Trade and Industry and David Blunkett's resignation, the scope for wide-scale changes is circumscribed.

Should other Cabinet vacancies occur, Tessa Jowell, the Blairite Health Minister, would be in line for promotion. Patricia Hewitt, the highly rated Economic Secretary to the Treasury, seems certain to be promoted soon.

Dr Reid is felt by senior ministers to have deserved Cabinet rank. Mr Blair might decide to keep him at Environment to balance Mr Prescott's more traditionalist team, but make him a second Cabinet minister within that department.



Murphy: one of Mowlam's deputies

### GOVERNMENT LINKS

www.cabinet-office.gov.uk Cabinet Office website  
www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/secretary/1999/ministers The Machinery of Government  
www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/secretary/1999/ministers The Machinery of Government  
www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/secretary/1999/ministers The Machinery of Government

addresses of Cabinet Office Ministers  
www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/secretary/1999/ministers The Machinery of Government  
www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/secretary/1999/ministers The Machinery of Government

## Complete list of Government

**AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD**

Minister  
Nick Brown

Minister of State  
Jeff Rooker

Parliamentary Secretaries  
Elliot Morley, Lord Donoghue

**CABINET OFFICE**

Minister for the Cabinet Office,  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster  
Jack Cunningham

Minister of State  
Lord Falconer of Thoror QC

Parliamentary Secretary  
Peter Kilfoyle

**CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT**

Secretary of State  
Chris Smith

Under-Secretaries of State  
Tony Banks (Minister for Sport)  
Alan Howarth (Minister for Arts)  
Janet Anderson (Minister for Tourism,  
Film and Broadcasting)

**DEFENCE**

Secretary of State  
George Robertson

Minister for Defence Procurement  
Lord Gilbert

Minister for the Armed Forces  
Doug Henderson

Under-Secretary of State  
John Speller

**EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT**

Secretary of State  
David Blunkett

Minister for Employment, Welfare  
to Work and Equal Opportunities  
Andrew Smith

Minister for School Standards  
Estelle Morris

Minister for Education  
and Employment (Lords)  
Baroness Blackstone

Under-Secretaries of State  
Charles Clarke, Margaret Hodge, George Mudie

**ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND THE REGIONS**

Secretary of State  
John Prescott

Minister for the Environment  
Michael Meacher

Minister for Local  
Government and Housing  
Hilary Armstrong

Minister for the Regions,  
Regeneration and Planning  
Richard Caborn

Minister of Transport  
John Reid

Under-Secretaries of State  
Nick Raynsford (Minister for London and Construction)  
Glenda Jackson (Minister for Transport in London)  
Lord Whitty (Minister for Roads and Road  
Safety)  
Alan Meale

**FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS**

Secretary of State Robin Cook

Ministers of State  
Derek Fatchett (Middle East,  
Far East, S.E. Asia, Pacific)  
Joyce Quin (Europe)  
Tony Lloyd (Latin America, Africa)  
Under-Secretary of State  
Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean  
(North America, Caribbean)

**HEALTH**

Secretary of State Frank Dobson

Minister of State John Denham

Minister for Public Health  
Tessa Jowell

Under-Secretaries of State  
Baroness Hayman  
John Hutton

**SCOTTISH OFFICE**

Secretary of State  
Donald Dewar

Minister for Education  
Helen Liddell

Minister for Home Affairs  
and Devolution  
Henry McLeish

Under-Secretaries of State  
Sam Galbraith  
Calum Macdonald  
Lord Sewel  
Lord Macdonald of Tradeston

**WELSH OFFICE**

Secretary of State  
Alun Michael

Under-Secretaries of State  
Peter Hain  
Jon Owen Jones

**The Cabinet**

Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service  
Tony Blair

Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions  
John Prescott

Chancellor of the Exchequer - Gordon Brown

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs - Robin Cook

Lord Chancellor - Lord Irvine of Lairg QC

Secretary of State for the Home Department - Jack Straw

Secretary of State for Education and Employment - David Blunkett

President of the Council and Leader of the Commons - Margaret Beckett

Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster - Jack Cunningham

Secretary of State for Scotland - Donald Dewar

Secretary of State for Defence - George Robertson

Secretary of State for Health - Frank Dobson

Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury (Chief Whip) - Ann Taylor

Secretary of State for Culture, Media, Sport - Chris Smith

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland - Marjorie Mowlam

Secretary of State for International Development - Clare Short

Secretary of State for Social Security - Alistair Darling

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food - Nick Brown

Lord Privy Seal, Leader of the House of Lords and Minister for Women  
Baroness Jay of Paddington

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry - Stephen Byers

Secretary of State for Wales - Alun Michael

Chief Secretary to the Treasury - Alan Milburn

**HOME OFFICE**

Secretary of State  
Jack Straw

Ministers of State  
Lord Williams of Mostyn QC,  
Paul Boateng

Under-Secretaries of State  
George Howarth,  
Mike O'Brien, Kate Hoey

**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Secretary of State  
Clare Short

Under-Secretary of State  
George Foulkes

**LAW OFFICERS**

Attorney-General John Morris QC

Solicitor-General Ross Cranston

Lord Advocate Lord Hardie

Solicitor-General for Scotland  
Colin Boyd

**ORD CHANCELLOR'S DEPARTMENT**

Lord Chancellor  
Lord Irvine of Lairg

Minister of State  
Geoff Hoon

**NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE**

Secretary of State  
Marjorie Mowlam

Ministers of State  
Adam Ingram, Paul Murphy

Under-Secretaries of State  
John McFall, Lord Dubs

**PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE**

President of the Council  
and Leader of the House of Commons  
Margaret Beckett

Parliamentary Secretary (unpaid)  
Paddy Tipping

Lord Privy Seal, Leader of the  
House of Lords  
and Minister for Women  
Baroness Jay of Paddington

**SOCIAL SECURITY**

Secretary of State  
Alistair Darling

Minister of State  
Stephen Timmins

Under-Secretaries of State  
Baroness Hollis of Heigham,  
Angela Eagle,  
Hugh Bayley

**SCOTTISH OFFICE**

Secretary of State  
Donald Dewar

Minister for Education  
Helen Liddell

Minister for Home Affairs  
and Devolution  
Henry McLeish

Under-Secretaries of State  
Sam Galbraith  
Calum Macdonald  
Lord Sewel  
Lord Macdonald of Tradeston

**TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

Secretary of State  
Stephen Byers

Minister for Energy and Industry  
John Battle

Minister for Trade and Competitive  
Lord Simon of Highbury

Minister of State Ian McCartney

Minister for Trade Brian Wilson

Under-Secretaries of State  
Kim Howells (Minister for Competition  
and Consumer Affairs)  
Michael Wills (Minister for Small Firms,  
Trade and Industry)  
Lord Salisbury of Turville  
(Minister for Science)

**TREASURY**

Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury  
and Minister for the Civil Service  
Tony Blair

Chancellor of the Exchequer  
Gordon Brown

Chief Secretary  
Alan Milburn

Paymaster General  
Dawn Primarolo

Financial Secretary  
Barbara Roche

Economic Secretary  
Patricia Hewitt

**WELSH OFFICE**

Secretary of State  
Alun Michael

Under-Secretaries of State  
Peter Hain  
Jon Owen Jones

**WHIPS**

**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

Parliamentary Secretary to the  
Treasury  
(Government Chief Whip) Ann Taylor

Treasurer of Her Majesty's  
Household  
(Deputy Chief Whip) Keith Bradley

Comptroller of Her Majesty's  
Household  
Thomas McAvoy

Vice-Chamberlain of Her Majesty's  
Household  
Graham Allen

Lords Commissioners (whips)  
Robert Ainsworth, James Dowd, Clive  
Betts, David Jamieson, Jane Kennedy

Assistant Whips  
Anne McGuire, David Hanson, David  
Clelland, Michael Hall,  
Keith Hill, Kevin Hughes, Greg Pope

**HOUSE OF LORDS**

Captain, Yeoman-at-Arms  
(Government Chief Whip) Lord  
Carter

Captain, Yeoman of the Guard  
(Deputy Chief Whip)  
Lord McIntosh of Haringey

Lords and Baronesses in Waiting  
(Whips)  
Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, Lord Hov  
Baroness Farrington of Ribbleson,  
Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale,  
Baroness Amos

Second Church Estates  
Commissioner, representing Church  
Commissioners Stuart Bell

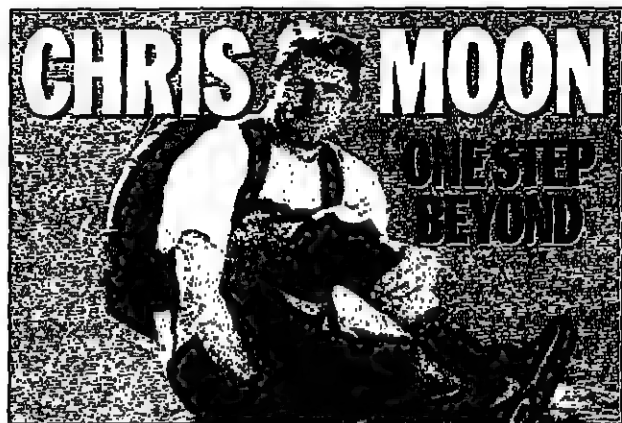






## CHRIS MOON: A STORY OF COURAGE

# I stare; my lower leg has gone. I think I'm going to die



Former soldier **Chris Moon**, 36, lost an arm and a leg clearing a minefield in Africa but went on to run the marathon. In the first extract from his compelling story he relives the incident that changed his life

**T**he date: March 7, 1993. The place: a remote minefield in northern Mozambique. The sun is high in the sky and it's hot. Most of the minefield has been cleared. Neatly painted white sticks starkly mark the safety lanes. The vegetation is cut as short as possible to allow metal detectors to sweep close to the ground. The mined sector is obvious because of the scrub, low bushes and long thick grass. I sweep the metal detector over the parched, red-brown earth, then prod gently and sift through the soil. About five metres in front of me a small whirlwind turns through the minefield. It's a twister. They're quite common in hot climates. As the small spiral of wind twists its demented circular jig, it lifts bits of dead grass and leaves.

I turn to go, then I feel it — cold. In the heat of the African day, how can I feel cold? A shiver runs down my spine and the hairs on the back of my neck rise. Suddenly I'm frightened. Ahead of me, at the bottom of the lane, something vile and evil is moving towards me. I have felt this before. I can only describe it as obscene, utter blackness. I must have had too much sun. I'm dehydrated. Be reasonable.

I know I must not stay here. I am starting to feel sick. My guts ache. I turn quickly and start to walk back down the safety lane. I take three paces and hear the loudest bang I've ever heard. The noise of the explosion is ringing in my ears. Everything is calm. It's strange how the silence is so loud after an explosion. I'm lying on my chest. I feel fine. No pain. I raise my hand. It's bleeding. I can't move it. Cautiously I start to raise myself. I know the body produces endorphins in time of traumatic injury. I won't have pain for a minute or so. It must have been a mine. I turn over carefully and sit up. My hand is mangled and bleeding like a squashed strawberry. I look down at my right leg. The air is sharp with the smell of the explosion and my burnt and blasted flesh.

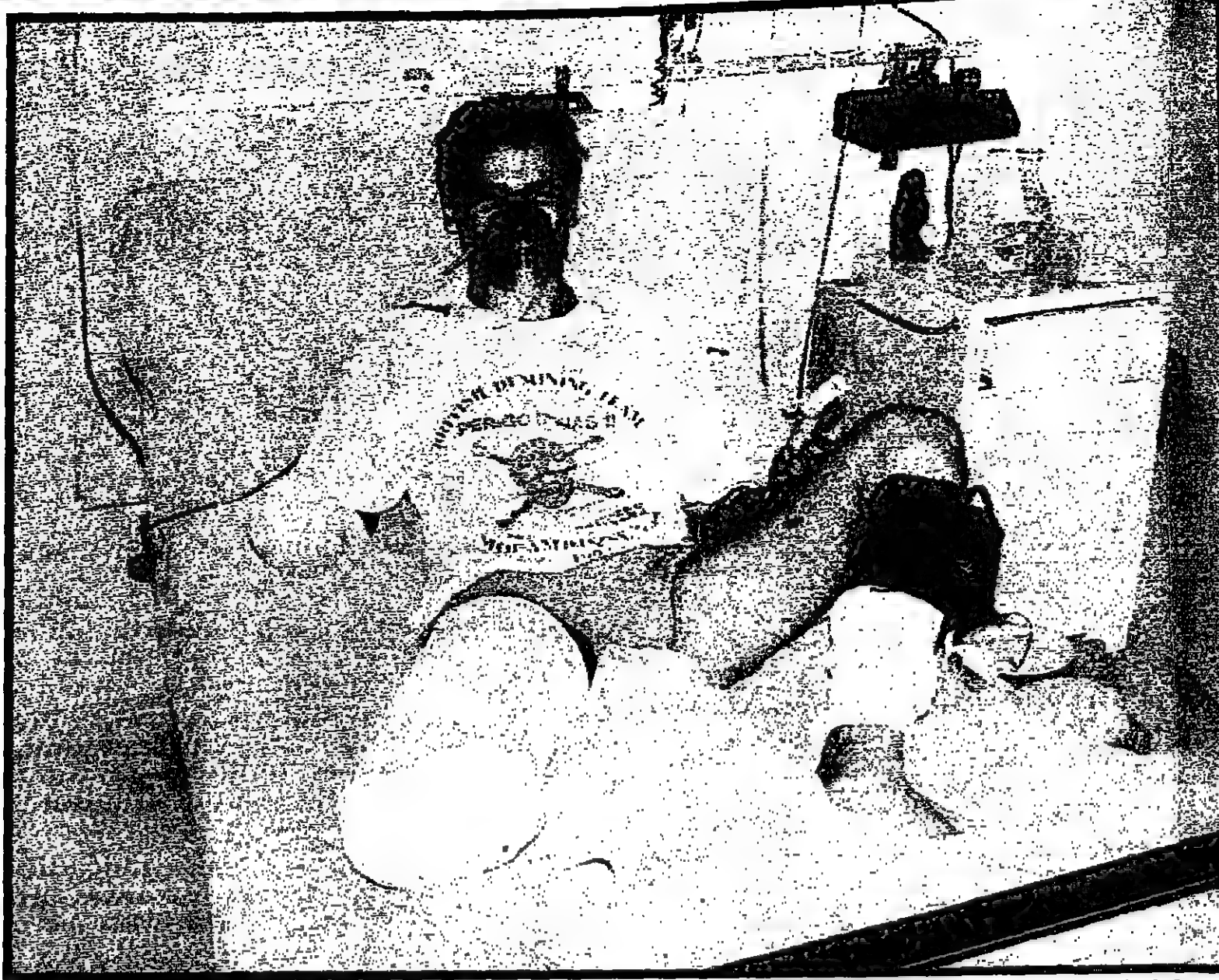
I stare. My lower leg has completely gone. The foot has vanished. There is just a finger of splintered yellow bone surrounded by ragged pink flesh. I am surprised that my bone is so yellow. I always thought it was white. Through the burning and stinging I fight to focus my mind. I'll be lucky to get out of this alive. I think I'm going to die. I will fight the pain, try not to moan. I will not lose control. I must send a casualty report to the back-up team on the road. It feels like ten minutes has passed since the blast, but I know it is hardly a second. I shout in a controlled voice. "Frank, I'm a casualty. I have been blown up walking down the safety lane. Lower right leg is blown off. Right hand is badly damaged. Get on the radio to the USAID helicopter. Only the two medics should come into the lane with the stretcher. Do you understand?" "Yes, sir," Frank shouts. I lie back on the shoddy clipped bush grass of the safe-

ty lane and I feel as if I'm burning. The right sleeve and leg of my thick cotton boiler suit are shredded to rags but it seems to have done its job of keeping flash burns to a minimum. I look at my forearm and can see the veins, which normally stick out strong and greeny-blue, have almost disappeared. I know I'm going into shock. My throat is consumed with a burning thirst. It is on fire. It is getting worse. Sleep beckons. I know I could just drift away and die.

I hear a shocked moan behind me. The medic looks at me with wide staring eyes. He puts the trauma pack down and stares in horror at the stump of my leg. I wonder what other injuries I have. I've been wearing body armour and eye protection. At least I can see, and I know I have no stomach injuries. I wonder if I've had my balls blown off. The thought is terrifying and I fight off a rising surge of panic. I thrust my hand between the popper but-

tons of my fly and pull up my boxer short elastic. I peer down and see blood around my groin. I gently put my hand down. I breathe deeply. I check the bits. They're bleeding slightly, but everything is still intact. Thank you, God! The medics have laid out the orange stretcher next to me. They lift me up gently and put me on the stretcher. I'm surprised they take so much care. I can't feel anything except the burning in my throat. It's like

someone's poured petrol down my gullet and set fire to it. I want to know where we're going. I lift my head and look ahead. There are trees and the grass is long. We're nearly there. I lie back and look at the sky again. The blue is getting more and more beautiful. I measure time in breaths but I've lost count of the number of breaths. I am being lowered. I try to raise my head. I see the outline of a shiny yellow, black and white helicopter, incongruous among the African trees and long grass. It is silent, ready and waiting. How strange; it's as if they've been expecting me. The chopper door is open and the front left seat has been taken out. The stretcher bearers' pace slows and they lower their load. I prop myself up on my left elbow and look ahead. The pilot is standing in front of me. "Don't worry, we'll have you out of here in no time." He looks at my injuries and I think he goes slightly pale. I can't imagine I look good. I lie back. My head isn't quite on the cushion. Kid hands gently lift my head and move the padding so my neck is no longer tilted back. The tail lifts off first, then we are airborne. The grass



Chris Moon in hospital after the blast: "Ahead of me at the bottom of the lane something vile and evil was moving towards me. I had felt this before..."



Planning and mapping with colleagues in Cambodia. left. Undergoing demolition training in Mozambique, right.



## Inspired to get back on your feet

**L**ong after Douglas Bader shot down his last enemy aircraft in the Second World War, he is still serving his fellow citizens. Bader's battle to fly again after the loss of both legs continues to provide inspiration to thousands of limbless patients.

In the early days after the loss of a limb, none but the pathologically detached can hope to be free of some degree of depression, but the example of those like Bader or Chris Moon encourages amputees who are grieving and despondent and persuades them to concentrate on rehabilitation.

The objective after an amputation and the fitting of a prosthesis is to enable a patient to regain the skills required for everyday living. It would be fantastic to still be able to climb Mount Everest, but what is really needed is self-sufficiency and the preservation of pride — and this is achieved by learning to carry out such everyday tasks as washing, shaving, dressing, eating, using the lavatory and telephone and, of course, walking, even running, without too obvious a limp.

The degree of rehabilitation achieved by a patient after amputation and a limb prosthesis is not only dependent on determination, but varies according to age, weight and general health and vitality.

It is also related to the skill of the surgeon and the limb-fitter, and the enthusiasm of the physician in charge of rehabilitation. The stump for below-knee amputation ideally should be about 15cm long, the skin flaps need to be cut so the scar is well-placed when the stump is fashioned and does

### MEDICINE CHEST

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

not have to bear weight and rub, and the bone ends need to be protected by muscles of the upper leg.

Dr Sellaiah Soori, a consultant physician in rehabilitation medicine at Queen Mary's University Hospital, Roehampton, said that below-knee amputations were the most successful of all amputations.

So good were the results that, for instance, the 100 metres record at the Olympics for the disabled was only a couple of seconds slower than that recorded for the standard games.

The prosthesis below the knee can be held in place by a suction socket alone, and a modern carbon-fibre ankle joint system allows the joint to be flexed or extended, the movement someone makes when they press the accelerator of a car up and down, or spontaneously turn in or out when walking, as when on rough ground.

The artificial limb can be made waterproof for swimming, or fitted with shock absorbers for the keen golfer. It can mimic normal movements so sensitively that bystanders will usually not even realise that the patient has an artificial limb.

Above-knee amputations pose greater problems. The knee is a complex joint, difficult to copy artificially — even the comfortable transmission of weight which

the stump has to bear presents many troubles. Despite that, above-knee prostheses have come a long way since the peg-leg of Long John Silver or even the tin legs of Douglas Bader, but some limp is inevitable.

Even patients who have lost their right hands may soon become adept with the left, and many are therefore reluctant to use a below-elbow prosthesis.

A recent survey has revealed that the majority of people with a below-elbow amputation don't use one.

The hand is an amazingly precise instrument and depends on very keen sensory perception which, unfortunately, no piece of medical engineering gadgetry can replace.

The hook has changed since Captain Hook's day but they still tend to be coarse, slow and heavy.

Good cosmetic hands are available and various devices which give a pincer movement, worked either mechanically or electrically, between the thumb and first two fingers; but more refined

working artificial hands are still only at the research stage. Dr Soori said: "After the loss of a limb, the primary objective is to find out all about just what the person's former life was like and then, through rehabilitation and with the aid of an artificial limb, to see that so far as possible they can be helped to meet their individual expectations."

"The function of the limb must not only be adequate in regard to their work, but also to their domestic life and hobbies."

## EXPERIENCE THE ECLIPSE IN FRANCE

Plus a visit to Paris

**TWO NIGHTS FROM £89**

**PRICE INCLUDES:**

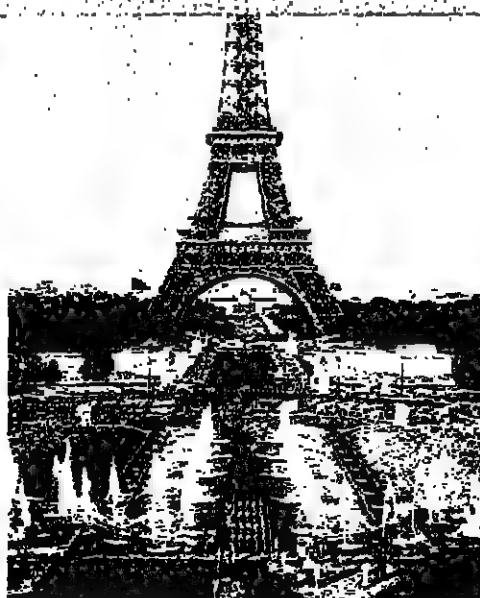
- Executive coaches with selected UK pick-ups
- Two nights' b&b at an ibis hotel
- Visit to Paris
- Tour manager
- All port and road taxes

**R**eaders are offered a superb two-night break to visit the greater Paris area, departing on August 9, 1999, to see one of the most remarkable events in the natural world — a total eclipse of the sun. What better way to enjoy this extraordinary event than combining it with a visit to one of Europe's most sophisticated capital cities? You will have time to enjoy the shops and sights of Paris before being taken by coach to see the once-in-a-lifetime eclipse just after midday, local time, on the morning of August 11 between Beauvais and Compiègne.

Price based on two people sharing a twin room. Single supplements available upon request. Festive Holidays full booking terms and conditions apply. Travel insurance not included.

This holiday is operated by Festive Holidays Limited, a company independent of Times Newspapers Limited. Atol 9197. Abta V106X.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CALL FESTIVE HOLIDAYS ON 0990 553355 (24 hours)



THE TIMES ECLIPSE OFFER

For further details send coupon to: The Times Eclipse in France offer, Festive Holidays Limited, Pale Court, North Place, Chertsey, Surrey, GU14 4DY

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

POSTCODE .....

You may be sent further information on offers and services which may be of interest to you. If you do not wish to participate please tick box.

## FAT REMOVAL



Performed normally as a day case by our experienced surgeons, we can effectively remove stubborn fat from the stomach, bottom, thighs, knees, ankles, arms, chin and male chest.

It is a reliable treatment that offers permanent results in the areas treated. (Over one million patients have been treated worldwide).

So, if you are unhappy or self-conscious with your figure, perhaps you should consider liposuction/liposculpture.

For a confidential consultation (without charge) with one of our experienced nurses, please telephone our national number below to get instantly connected to your nearest clinic.

OTHER PROCEDURES FOR MEN AND WOMEN INCLUDE: BREAST, NOSE, FACE AND EAR RE-SHAPING, EYELID SURGERY, VARICOSE AND THREAD VEIN REMOVAL, COLLAGEN REPLACEMENT THERAPY, PEMS ENLARGEMENT, WRINKLES, ACNE SCARS AND SNOORING PROBLEMS ALSO A SPECIALISED SKIN CARE RANGE NOW AVAILABLE.

**THE HARLEY MEDICAL GROUP**  
6 Harley Street, London W1A 1AA  
ESTABLISHED 1993

FOR YOUR NEAREST CLINIC  
TELEPHONE 0870 603 4444

**LASER HAIR REMOVAL TREATMENT AVAILABLE**  
INCLUDING FACE, UNDER ARMS, BODY, BROW LINE AND LEGS.

CLINICS IN LONDON • CITY OF LONDON • WINDLETON • BIRMINGHAM • BRISTOL • LEEDS • MANCHESTER • NEWCASTLE

حيدر بن الامير



## CHRIS MOON: A STORY OF COURAGE

## Some say I won't run again. I say I will

I have been in hospital for about ten days. I hope this will be the last amputation and that they have reached the last of the dirt that was blasted up into the leg, because there's not much left below the knee now.

I ask for the usual short back and sides, then go to great lengths to position myself exactly where they want me on the slab. As they prepare the injection, I thank God I am lucky enough to get such brilliant treatment.

When they have time, they take me out in the wheelchair and push me around outside the hospital so I can feel the sunshine and breathe fresh air. The hospital is a modern building. The front is like a well-built, marble-clad office block; the rest is more functional. It inspires confidence.

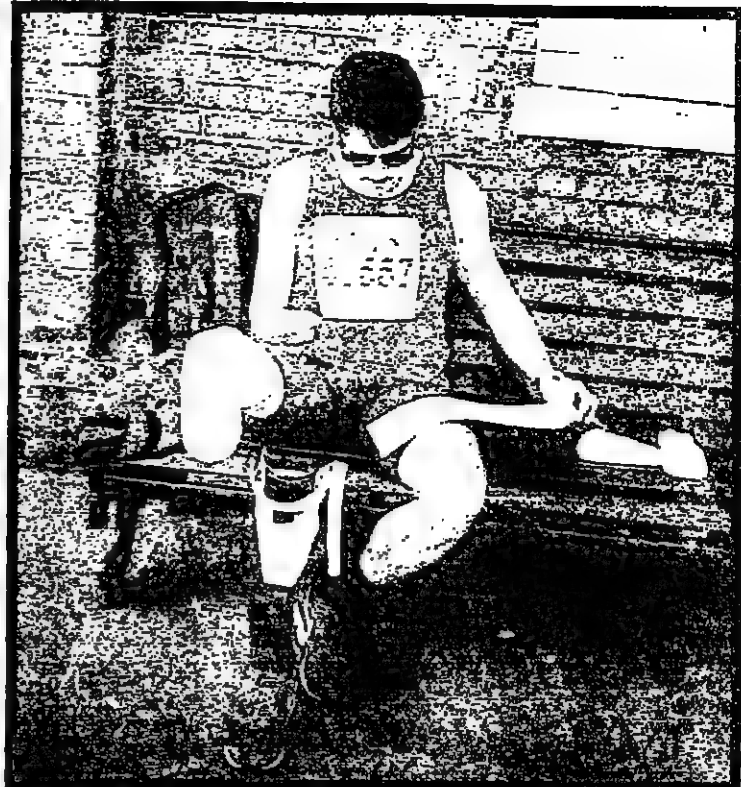
I know I don't look healthy. One of my young visitors had to rush off and throw up the other day. They all wanted to know what happened when I was blown up. If people ask me, I don't mind telling them. I suppose it's only natural that they are curious. Strangely enough, I hadn't started telling them the really gory bits when he puked.

I wonder how long it will be before I can walk again. Some people think I might be able to run again, though some say I won't. I say I will. Yes, I will.

The doctor and consultant examine the stump and knee. The consultant says: "Good news. The infection is under control and we think it's safe to close the wound. I have also spoken to physio and they are getting you some crutches. Within the next week or so you should be up and about."

Every day I try to get a little stronger and to do something I didn't do the day before. I'm still sleeping only a few hours at night. The rest of the time I feel as if I'm in limbo. I am aware of my surroundings and have no problem having a conversation, but I find reading and anything that requires me to concentrate difficult.

The physiotherapist arrives with an enormous package wrapped in brown paper. It feels like Christmas. Out come the crutches. She sets them to the correct height and I watch like an excited child. Carefully I put the stump of my arm on the rest. The thick bandage around my arm offers some protection. With her steadying my shoulders, I start to move cautiously around the room. We emerge into the corridor. I don't have any shoes. There is still



The hardest test: Chris prepares to run the London Marathon in 1996

a thick bandage around the flash burn on my ankle, so I probably wouldn't get a shoe on anyway. "Take small steps," she says. "You can't risk falling over yet."

I am forced to admit that it was harder than I thought it would be.

The physio sensibly takes the crutches away and hides them until I have had a few more supervised

sessions. Gradually we go farther and farther down the corridor and eventually I reach the hospital entrance.

As a child, when things were not going well, I used to thank God for the fact that I had two arms and two legs. Now I am even more grateful for the fact that at least I still have one of each.

## TOMORROW

*Kidnapped in Cambodia:  
'The Khmer Rouge are  
running towards us waving  
their weapons. We are  
surrounded. I hope to God  
nobody starts shooting'*

"As a child, when things were not going well, I thanked God I had two arms and two legs. Now I am grateful I still have one of each"

shimmers in the downdraft and we start rising above the trees. The noise is deafening. The medic is by my side and starts to open his orange bag. He gets out two drip lines and two clear plastic bags of Ringers solution. He unzips an inner pocket, removes a shiny metal hook and carefully loops it through the radio headset hook on the roof.

I look out of the window and watch the trees fly past beneath us. We are flying over the bush. We still have a long way to go. I force myself to lie still. I'm getting weaker and weaker. All I want to do is go to sleep and escape from this.

I turn my head back to the medic. He's put the needles in my elbow joints and I didn't even feel them. All I want to do is cry "Water. Water. Please give me water" but I can't speak. My throat is too dry and my voice doesn't work. I'm worried. In books and films people cry for water just before they die from traumatic injury.

The trees rush past the side windows, then I look up at the sky. I turn back as the medic turns the drip on. Wait, I don't think he's run them through. If he hasn't, the air from the lines will probably kill me. I can't afford to take the chance. I sit up and try to explain but when I speak, nothing happens. My voice still isn't working. I point. He looks

at me sympathetically and pats my shoulder. He thinks I'm delirious, shocked out of my wits. He tries to lie me back down. I try to resist, then realise how weak I am.

I have no choice. I lie back. He reaches again for the switch. There's only one thing I can do. I'm fighting for my life. I sit up and lash out with my left hand. Then I pull the line from the inside of my right elbow with my left hand.

My right hand doesn't work so I bite the hard plastic end of the needle and pull my arm away. It comes out; I let go with my teeth and watch it drop on to my dirty, bloodstained overalls.

I have to put out the fire in my throat. Ringers solution is isotonic; the same concentration as blood. It's absorbed almost immediately through the gut wall. I have no stomach injuries, so I can drink. It's not standard medical procedure, but I feel like I'm dying from lack of fluid. I've never been closer to the edge of panic.

I hold my right arm awkwardly to the side and reach up with my left. The bag is soft and warm. I push it up and off the loop. Out of the corner of my eye I see the pilot turn his head, wondering what's going

on. I'm sorry I can't explain. My mind races. I didn't know I could think this fast. The inferno in my throat is consuming me. I think my head is about to explode.

I am moving my left hand towards my mouth. I watch the liquid in the clear plastic get closer. It is the elixir of life. I bite through the plastic and the warm liquid floods into my mouth. I tip my head back and gulp greedily. Relief floods through me. It's better than diving into a cool, blue pool on a scorching day.

We touch down. Rupert watches and waits. The engine becomes quiet and the rotors stop. He bends down, leans forward and runs under the rotors to the door. He opens it and says: "Don't worry mate, we'll soon be sitting

down having a beer and a chat somewhere cool." I'm lucky he's switched on. I'm doubly fortunate because he's our best medic.

As they lift me out I feel weak and tired, but I have to know. "Do you think I'm going to die?"

"No. You just won't be quite as pretty as you used to be."

I've never been called pretty before and it's not high on my list of priorities, so that's all right.

The hospital is the enormous single-storey concrete building near by. They put me on a battered trolley and wheel me in. They cut off my clothes. I hear the scissors. They examine the wounds and search for other injuries that are not immediately apparent. They keep talking but I can't hear what people are saying. All these things seem to be happening around me.

Rupert goes to check aircraft availability. The nurse says: "We will stabilise you and fly you out as soon as we can." A few minutes later some-

one says: "Don't worry, you'll be fine. Now we're giving you a general anaesthetic. You won't feel any more pain. You will be OK, don't worry." That's what I used to say to sick animals as I stroked them while the vet was putting them down.

I see a small hypodermic, held in an anonymous surgical glove, approaching my forearm. I don't feel the injection. The smell of disinfectant fills my nostrils. I'm tired, more tired than I thought.

"Mr Moon, can you hear me?"

It must be the doctor. I try to speak but only manage to groan. My eyes are too heavy to open.

I force a shaky reply. "Yes." "You're in hospital in South Africa, Mr Moon. You were injured in an explosion. Do you remember?"

"Yes. I had my lower right leg blown off."

"That's right. I'm the surgeon looking after you and I have to tell you that I have just amputated your right hand four inches above the wrist. There was a remote chance we could have saved it but it would probably never have functioned. Reconstruction surgery would have taken more than two years and it was likely that it would then have had to be amputated anyway."

I am curiously relieved. He's told the truth straight away and I still have a life. I want to get out of here as soon as I can and get back to work. I don't want to spend the next two years in limbo. It's far better to get rid of it now than mess around. I've heard people get phantom pain after an amputation. That's why my hand hurts. I say: "Thank you. I want to get back to work as soon as I can."

Excerpted from *One Step Beyond* by Chris Moon, published by Macmillan, £16.99. Times readers can buy it for £14.99 by calling The Times Bookshop, 0990-134 459.

It's like  
someone's  
poured  
petrol  
down my  
gullet

FPDSavills

SAVILLS PRIVATE FINANCE

"The leading specialists in  
six and seven figure  
mortgage finance"

3.49%

(APR 7.2% Variable)

Fixed until

1 MARCH 2001

SAVILLS PRIVATE FINANCE  
0171 330 8550

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

The APR is based on a typical example of 25 year endowment loan of £100,000 secured on a £150,000 property value with a valuation fee of £190, solicitors fee £100 (representative), an arrangement fee £295, and a deeds release fee of £100. 22 monthly payments of £282.02 followed by 278 payments of £622.41, calculated at the standard variable rate, assumed to be 7.70%. Total amount payable £279,919.42. All payments net of MIRS at 10% on the first £30,000 of the loan. A redemption fee of 4.5% of the amount redeemed will be payable within the first 3 years. Loans are subject to status and additional security may be required. Credit broker fees of up to 1% may be charged. Written quotations available on request from Savills Private Finance, 25 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7EE

WE DON'T CHARGE A SUBSCRIPTION. WE DON'T CHARGE A MONTHLY FEE.

FREE INTERNET ACCESS

YOU DON'T NEED A CREDIT CARD.  
YOU JUST PAY A LOCAL CALL TO ACCESS THE INTERNET.

FreeUK.com

0900 9000 900

www.freeuk.com

## ARTS

Hot from Hollywood: America's  
Easter weekend blockbuster is  
reviewed by Giles Whittell.

Arts, Pages 32-34



# Blair's line of least resistance

The punchline is missing in this improvised Balkan war

History repeats itself. The first time as tragedy and now as improvisational comedy. The unfolding humanitarian disaster in Kosovo has, certainly, had the tragic quality of inevitability. It would not have required Themistoclean foresight to recognise that Slobodan Milosevic would respond to bombing with an intensification of his ethnic cleansing. But if the butcher of the Balkans has played true to stereotype there has been no sense that the ditherer of Downing Street has been sucking to any script. It seems uncomfortably as though Tony Blair has been making it up as he goes along.

Improvisation is, of course, an invaluable part of the repertoire of the performer. And in *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*, Channel Four succeeded in building an appreciative audience for improv. At the ring of Clive Anderson's buzzer, the performers would act out a cocktail party scene as though it had been directed by Ingmar Bergman, then buzz John Ford, and then buzz Quentin Tarantino.

Now, at the drop of a Nato bomb, Tony Blair acts out the part of war leader in the style of Gladstone, then boom Thatcher, and then boom Churchill. Although it seems, at the moment, as though he is closer to being the Churchill of Gallipoli rather than D-Day.

When Nato started its assault on Serbia we were assured that this was a humanitarian effort and Slobodan would buckle in days. Subsequently we were told that we were fighting in the national interest to secure regional stability, and we had better prepare for a long haul. After this weekend, we are no longer restricting ourselves to an intervention based on Gladstonian compassion, let alone a Thatcherite fight for our national interest. "This is now," Mr Blair informed readers of *The Sun* "a battle between good and evil." Along the corridors of Downing Street echo the words of Churchill, "upon this battle depends the survival of Christian civilisation".

Yet in this Manichean struggle, between not just a dictatorship and an alliance of democracies, but between "democracy and dictatorship" itself, as the Prime Minister argued in *The Sunday Telegraph*, our leaders are prepared to sacrifice everything but the good opinion of the focus groups. Mr Blair is fighting his war on two fronts, an air offensive in the Balkans and a holding operation with Middle England. How else to explain the refusal to consider any commitment of ground troops, and the insistence that everything be done to help the refugees except offer them proper refuge?

The polls may suggest that there is support for intervention on the ground. But surveys also show that there is deep wariness that the British soldiers dying to keep Pec ethnically Albanian. Mr Blair seems to regard the headline support for committing ground troops as he did the superficial support in previous electoral campaigns for

tax rises. Once public attitudes are properly explored, the idealism evaporates. And not just among the electorate. The improvisational Prime Minister, who has moulded his act to the audience, dares not educate the public in the hard truths of war. Nor does he challenge the limits of our compassion. So, instead of providing a home for huddled masses we have a groan, and muddled thinking.

We are asked to believe that air power alone will cause Milosevic to wobble. We are asked to accept that, in Mr Blair's own words, Nato will "drive... the Serbian army from Kosovo" without its forces ever setting foot in the province. And we are invited to collude in the belief that the Kosovans will happily return to their devastated homeland once we have declared it a "safe haven".

This is not so much improvisation, as dangerous invention, no longer comedy but folly to which the hollowest laugh cannot do justice. Short of Hiroshima, and I trust we are a long way short of that, no conflict has been concluded with aerial bombardment. Even then, the Japan which sued for peace had seen its armies crushed on the ground.

No matter how successful this air offensive is, and we must pray for its success, can it really not be augmented by the threat of action on the ground? Would not the very act of building up our forces in Macedonia act as a more powerful signal of our seriousness than the bombardment of Fleet Street with signed philippics from No 10? And would we not be better able to persuade Kosovans to return to their homeland if we were prepared to deploy not just bombers but troops to secure its integrity? Ask the Kurds how effective are their safe havens secured from the air and the graves give their own mute answer.

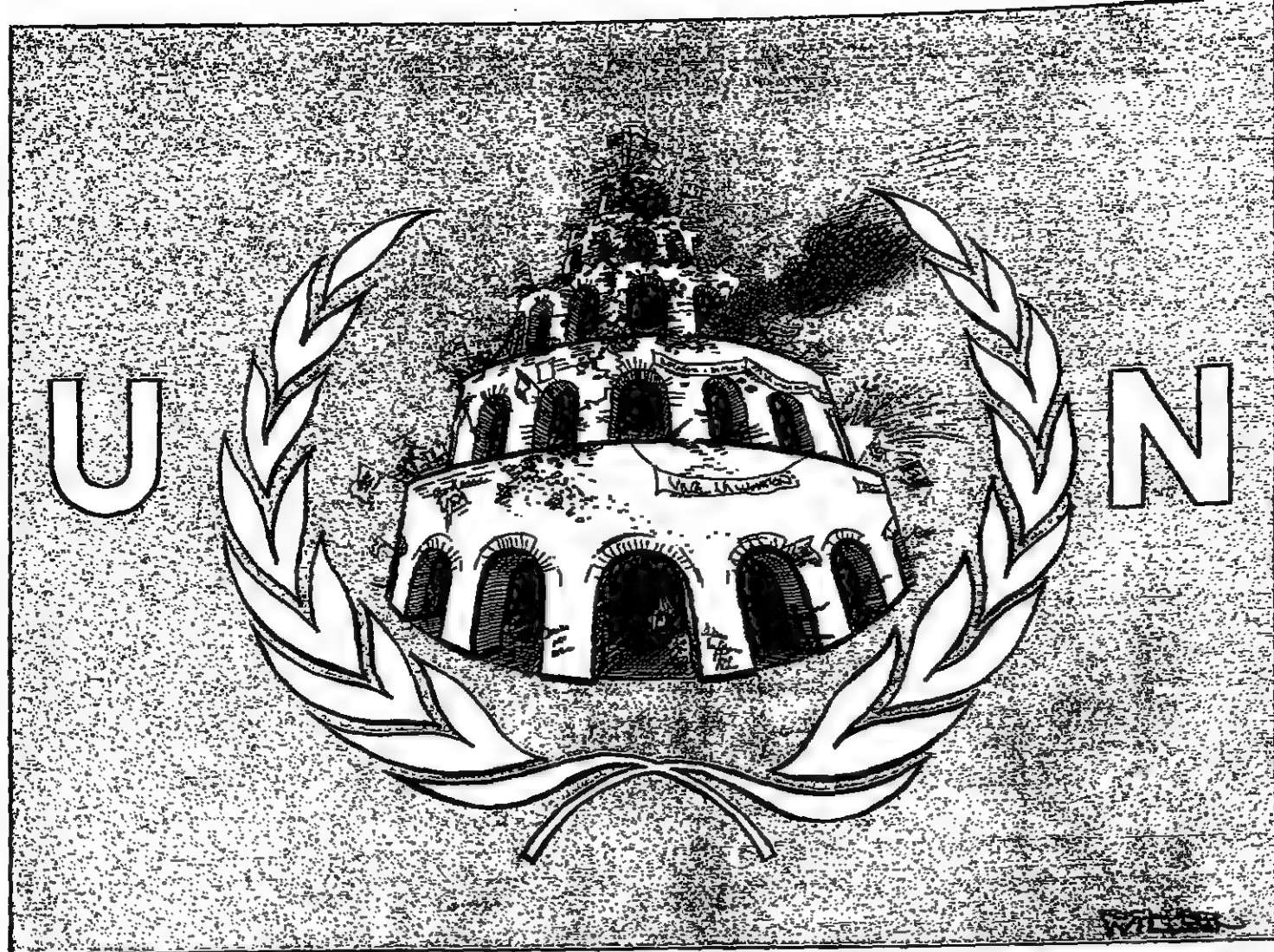
But the commitment of ground troops, what one might call, without apology to Margaret Thatcher, the resolute approach, requires something new from our current leaders. It is something they seem incapable of giving — a lead. We have a Prime Minister who can feel our pain, but not steel us to endure it. Having abandoned the rhetoric of sacrifice somewhere on the road from John Smith's grave, Mr Blair has to improvise a new style of political leadership. Our strung-out Premier will not cease from mental fight, but he lets the sword sleep in his hand.

Without a willingness to drive the Serbian army out at gunpoint we face, at best, the prospect not of a liberated Kosovo, but a partitioned one. If, after he has finished his ethnic cleansing, Milosevic chooses, himself, to improvise and offer us a new peace deal with a carved-up Kosovo, what evidence is there that Nato will stand firm? And when the world looks at this new division, and asks whose line is it anyway, what will our ever-inventive Prime Minister say then?

michael.gove@the-times.co.uk



Michael Gove



## Speech impediments

The ancient myth of Babel lives on in the killing fields of Kosovo

They think they have dug up the Tower of Babel. What could be more spookily appropriate to this Easter? The word is that Michael Saunders, a classicist, concludes from new Nasa photographs and reinterpreted biblical texts that the legendary tower was not in Mesopotamia as previously assumed, but by the Black Sea.

If so, I hope it becomes a place of penitential pilgrimage, because nothing could be more apt as we squabble into a new century. In my school the Babel story was not much dwelt upon in RE — possibly because the Modern Languages department did not want us noticing that its moral seems to be that foreign languages are a punishment sent by God. So I looked it up over Easter.

It is one of those capricious, unpalatable incidents in Genesis which brings to mind the story told in the trade about a biographer of Evelyn Waugh. Fresh from that task, the hardy writer was commissioned to work on a children's Bible: it is reported that at one point she muttered: "I thought there was nobody worse than Waugh, but the God of the Old Testament runs him pretty close." Certainly His punishments often took the form of curmudgeonly frustration of human initiative.

The story tells of the days when "The whole earth was of one language and one speech". Wanderers arriving at the plain of Shinar decided to build a tower whose top might reach to Heaven. God, disliking this arrogance, came down to "confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech". So the confused new tribes scattered, each talking their own language and regarding the utterances of everyone else as so much gibberish. Think of it: proto-Serbian, early Croat, seeds of Albanian, Gujarati, Hindi, Russian, Hutu, Tutsi, English, Welsh — scattering across the world, to grow into cultures and loyalties which would set the sons and daughters of Adam at one another's throats for ten thousand years. The correct theological response is that mankind deserved it; nonetheless the words "dirty trick" spring to mind.

Like all the best myths, Babel dramatises an unappealing aspect of ourselves, and expresses the eternal bafflement at the failure of the human race to behave with sense or even real self-interest. The early chapters of Genesis emphasise unity: the careful and much-parodied lineage tracing every tribe back

to Adam. The moment of Babel — told with tantalising brevity — turns a close society with a well-organised building project into a disorganised, squabbling rabble who give up the job and scatter to different territories because they literally can't get any sense out of one another. The myth answers the question "Why are we like this?" with the usual answer: that we separated ourselves from the will of God.

But you do not need to believe in God to feel the frustration: why are we like this? For centuries humane philosophers have bewailed our capacity for wasting effort on conflict when a fragment of the cost could have funded prosperous co-operation. Very few wars are actually fought for survival, and united societies have flourished under extreme privation. War sets progress back: in the Yugoslav context this is illustrated by a history of the Yugo car, a Tito export whose parts came from every corner of the federation, with Serb steel rolling on Bosnian wheels — with Croatian brake-lings and Montenegrin seats, or whatever. OK, they were awful cars, but it was a start. Now the industry and the profits are gone.

Looking at the present set of international crises it is unbearably frustrating to contemplate just how much could have been done for the countries bordering Serbia with the money currently exploding over Belgrade at five million dollars a bang: or to consider what the Balkan groups themselves could have achieved in peace. Meanwhile, better not even to think how many wells could be dug and farms founded by the muscle currently wasted by the roaming killers of the interahamwe in central Africa, or how much more desert might have flourished if Arabs and Israelis lived in trust, or what Northern Ireland could become if its people would only let it.

These are hopelessly naive reflections. We all know the answer: people aren't like that. People side with their own, and define their own in rigid ways. The Russians side with the Serbs because they are "theirs". The Serbs think everyone is against them, and considering what happened to them in Croatia, they are not entirely deluded. Even our own, supposedly race-blind Nato politics are visibly tainted with the desire to back people who look like us. We are more active over human rights in Kosovo than in Algeria, or China, or Burma; the justification of physical proximity does not stand up. If it were possible to do a controlled experiment I suspect that the Anglo-Saxon and Northern European leaders — and their electors — would always find excuses to help white victims before black, and that among the white victims they would prefer those who use the Roman alphabet to those who write Cyrillic or Arabic script. Remember the run-up to the Falklands war, and that flood of emotive journalism about the British ethos of the islands, and the outrage of having foreign orders barked there?

These instincts will always be with us, underlying everything that we do. The honest thing is to confront them frankly, and recognise unhelpful impulses. This applies as much to racism as to other conflicts. The other day a newspaper reported that a group of scientists interpret hostility to racially-mixed marriages in terms of Stone Age survival mechanisms. At a primitive level, it was biologically inadvisable to have a white skin in hot southern climates, because you need melanin for protection, and equally dangerous to be black in the grey north because white skins capture more vitamins from sunlight. Hence, a biological instinct not to mate, for fear of producing young with less capacity to survive.



Libby Purves

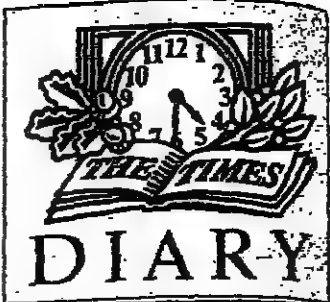
In the age of sunscreen creams and an indoor life any such instinct is as redundant as the fight-or-flight mechanism is to a railway commuter. But as I discussed the report with a pale-skinned friend who has been happily married to a Nigerian doctor for 20 years, she immediately said: "Oh, yes. An anthropologist told me about that when we got engaged. The biological interdict." Had it worried her? "No, the opposite. It swept away the last doubts. I had been wondering about a few uneasy feelings I had, but once I identified them as Stone Age remnants, I could tidy them away."

I identify, admit, confess the sin of Babel, and it fades. The new millennium is not without hope. The creative vigour of melting-pot communities has been proven over and over again in this century, from New York to Cardiff Bay. Air travel confronts ordinary people with the humanity of foreigners, and the e-mail generation holds conversations across the most unpromising borders. My most interesting letters of the past week have been from families who, ever since some bygone Yugoslav holiday, have kept in touch with Serb or Kosovan friends. Unless bigots take charge, communities rub along fine even in poor regions.

Tony Allen-Mills, of *The Sunday Times*, reminded us this weekend of the life and death of Bogoljub Staletovic, a notably even-handed and sociable Serbian police commander in a southern Kosovo town. As the situation grew tenser, Staletovic tried, said a witness, "to persuade his friends in both groups not to get angry with each other. Nobody wanted trouble. This part of Kosovo always had a peaceful life". It was the Kosovo Liberation Army who ambushed and killed Staletovic. He was only 31; seven thousand mourners followed him, including Albanians. But from that time onward, fear in the town increased.

That Staletovic is dead is part of the disaster. But that he lived, and is mourned, is part of the hope. There will always be individuals who recognise that law of Babel is an evil nonsense and refuse to submit to it. But if we are to join them we have to suppress the Babel instinct in ourselves: starting with the admission that even in a mess like this, there are no demons but only potential friends.

comment@the-times.co.uk



## Lost at sea?

THE alleged disappearance of the ringleaders of a mutiny aboard a destroyer captured by Lord Mountbatten during the Second World War is to be investigated by the Ministry of Defence. It is to launch the inquiry because veterans are demanding to know about the crewmen's fate.

In 1941, HMS *Jackal* was requested to help in the defence of Plymouth by employing its anti-aircraft guns against incoming German planes. As the ship fired off every shell and bullet on board, its crewmen, many of whom were from Plymouth, watched the city's destruction.

Once the action was over, the seamen asked to go ashore to see how their families had fared. Mountbatten (below), however, turned down their request and ordered the ship out to sea.

In protest, the ratings slammed the watertight doors and effectively went on strike. Mountbatten relented later that day, but when the ship arrived in Gibraltar a few weeks later, the ringleaders were flown home by the military and never seen again by their ship mates.



A SERBIAN protester in Parliament Square with a placard urged Robin Cook over the weekend to "make love not war".

■ JACK STRAW'S campaign against institutional racism does not extend to Labour itself. Just as the Macpherson report into the Stephen Lawrence murder showed that the Race Relations Act did not apply to the police, so two industrial tribunals against the party have highlighted that it also is excluded from the legislation.

Raghib Ahsan, a former Birmingham councillor, has followed Neelam Bakshi, a counterpart in Scotland, in alleging that the party has acted in a racially discriminatory fashion towards them. They are both backed by the Commission for Racial Equality.

Ken Livingstone says Labour is actively fighting the cases by exploiting its exemption from the Act. "Why is the Labour leadership," he asks, "refusing to accept that the Act should apply to the Labour Party itself?"

BELGIUM this month joined Egypt and Jamaica as countries where the Foreign Office advises British tourists to take care.

■ LIKE a Victorian covering up the legs of a piano, one of Britain's latest Oscar winners has concealed the nudity of his award. Stephen Warbeck, who received the prized statue in Hollywood for composing the music for *Shakespeare in Love*, has been clothing the trophy in Barbie doll clothes borrowed from his children. "I looked at the Oscar and thought, I don't like the look of this thing much," he says. "He's been wearing a purple dress for some of his time in Britain."



MADEIRAINE ALBRIGHT'S latest strategy for winning the war in the Balkans: a new hairdo. In very public view, the Secretary of State yesterday sat under the dryer at Hair Design in Georgetown, surrounded by a posse of Secret Service agents.

■ MINIMALISM has failed to add value to Peter Mandelson's home. The estate agency board has been standing outside the former Trade Secretary's house in Northumberland Place for two and a half months. A similar but more homely property down the road and on the market for an equivalent period has just been snapped up.

DURING its latest stock-taking, the London Dungeon has discovered that it is missing a replica skull, chastity belt and severed head of King Charles I.

EDWARD WELSH

## 'It may seem inclusive, but the next royal wedding risks disastrous public relations, by mixing the public uncomfortably with the relations'

Helen Rumbelow

Love may grow from intimacy, but it is in the nature of wedding vows that they must be before an audience. As Dr Johnson observed of executions, there's no point if they're not public. But even for the least private of this year's weddings, the marriage of Prince Edward and Sophie Rhys-Jones, there can be such a thing as too public an avowal.

Those planning this royal wedding in the expectation that it will, unlike others, actually have a fairytale ending would do better to go back to the traditional stories than substitute them with publicity techniques learnt from *Hello!* Prince Charming naturally invited everyone in all the land to cheer the good match he made in Cinderella, but he invented strict quantity controls to keep the actual ceremony to his bride and close family. Instead, Prince Edward and

Sophie Rhys-Jones have invited 500 of their closest friends, and then decided to let the public scramble in an unseemly draw for the final 2,000 places inside Windsor Castle.

It may seem inclusive, but the next royal wedding risks disastrous public relations, by mixing the public uncomfortably with the relations. And even before the relations object, the public will. The national tradition, duty even, of using queues as a means of fairly distributing anything from stamps to a glance at celebrity has been wiped out with one stroke of Sophie's wand. Gone is the loyal fan, a man in a Union Jack hat, with warm sandwiches and cold sleeping-bag. In his place appears a new and increasingly common kind of guest, with the glazed and acquisitive face of someone entered in a prize draw. They will be familiar figures to one of the

couple's first invitees, Chris Tarrant from *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?* It is a decision revealing of a modern Britain, in which lottery culture has overtaken fairness and romance. Like the lottery, those who win a place at the wedding can expect the envy of those they leave behind and the condescension of the old money with whom they aspire to rub shoulders.

For those guests who are there by the lottery of noble birth can hardly be expected to savour sharing their celebration with those who won a lucky ticket. Hanging themselves on burning would appear more attractive than sitting in an enclosure with 2,000 subscribers to *Majesty* magazine sweating patriotically into their flasks of hot tea.

The future Princess delayed

and delayed her engagement. And in this confused People's Wedding we can, perhaps, see why. It was not because of any wavering doubts about the manly Prince Edward and his passion for real tennis, but because she did not know in which of her rivals' footsteps to follow.

First there was the People's Princess, Diana's spectacularly camp taffeta-fest. Pearly queens and gay men led the throngs adoring her from London streets, but respected that the marriage was a private affair only to be viewed on tea towels and ceremonial tumbrels after the event. Then came the Paparazzi Princess, the stately Spice Girl Mel B. She commanded not only that all her guests wear white, but at least £350,000

for the exclusive photographs. And in reaction to the above came the Publican's Princess, an adorably down-home affair from Kate Winslet, the actress who tipped off only a few photographers to come to her local and watch her splatter cheap beer down her ridiculously expensive couture gown. The public relations girl watched these successes and wished to herself that she could have all three. How quickly she had forgotten the lesson she had learnt from her engagement with Edward: to be careful what you wish for.

What results is a mixture of all these modern myths. She attempts to put a bouncer on the portaulis of the castle, rejecting most but allowing a few in from the crowd. But you cannot have your wedding cake and eat it. Issuing some golden tickets to the public and leaving the rest clamouring at the gate will cause more

anger than if no public tickets had been issued at all. Although Ms Rhys-Jones is a publicity maven she has yet to realise the fastest way to turn the public away from the royals is to allow them to feel they have a right to get close, and then snatch the dream from all but a random few.

The magic secret of enduring as a modern royal must be to remain exclusive. No "People's Weddings", no inner pens for the lucky few, no prize draws, no one to breathe down the back of a betrothed's neck as vows are said, no blurring of fans and friends. Then they will fulfil the fairytale monarchy of real populist dreams.

Once the thin end of this wedge prises open the chapel door, then what next? The birth of the first fruit of their union screened on *Live and Kicking*?

helen.rumbelow@the-times.co.uk





## A MORAL DUTY

Nato must quicken the pace of war and aid to war's victims

Whatever the spats between Clare Short and Jack Straw over the Kosovan refugees or growing divisions within Nato over America's proposed airlift, the immediate task is to protect and feed the refugees camped in misery along the Kosovan border. Nato estimates that the number of displaced Kosovans is now approaching a million; some 44,000 left yesterday alone, and a further 300,000 are expected to struggle into Albania, Macedonia and Montenegro within the next few days. Ethnic cleansing continues apace: at this rate, Kosovo will be emptied of all Albanians within about two weeks — the swiftest and most brutal displacement in Europe since the Second World War.

In their squalid camps, they are at least safe from assault and the systematic killing of young men by the para-military Serb gangs now torching their villages. But their lives are still at risk. Hunger, exhaustion and disease are taking their toll. They camp in the open, in fields churned to mud and covered with faeces. There is no water, warmth or food. The elderly are bewildered, the children terrified, the sick unable to get attention. Dysentery and cholera attack as relentlessly as Serb guns.

As the numbers grow, so do fears and resentment in the precarious countries to which the Kosovans are fleeing. All three are among the most vulnerable in Europe, desperately poor, beset by their own ethnic and tribal conflicts and with shaky governments easily overthrown by populists exploiting the present crisis. Macedonia is threatening to close its borders altogether if the Kosovans are not quickly dispersed. President Djukanovic of Montenegro, courageously defying the hardliners in Belgrade, is still offering sanctuary to the refugees but fears that President Milosevic is plotting a coup to replace him

with a placeman of his own. Albania can no longer cope with the numbers, and Nato is having to send in some 6,000 troops to take over policing and food distribution.

Nato insists that as the weather clears, and the destruction of Yugoslav bridges and fuel and ammunition dumps bites, the Serb terror in Kosovo will be slowed and eventually halted. For many, it will be too late. Tony Blair was right to insist that the attacks must be stepped up. British Tornados based in Germany took part in the air raids for the first time at the weekend; two battalions of American Apache helicopters, designed to attack ground forces, will soon arrive in Tirana. The Nato aim remains consistent: to force the Serb troops out of Kosovo, allow the refugees to return and police their safety with a Nato peacekeeping force.

That aim, however, is still far from being achieved. It will take a lot more firepower, more flexible tactics and more time to break Serbian intransigence. And neither the refugees nor the host countries have time. Even after a ceasefire, few will return unless a sizeable military force clears the way and escorts them home.

The Americans have proposed a massive airlift to relieve the refugee plight. Most of Europe is ready to take in thousands, but Britain and France are reluctant, insisting that moving out the Albanians would be to connive in ethnic cleansing. The political objections are valid, but the humanitarian need is overwhelming. Safe havens would be a better option, but not one that is speedily available. Accommodating the sick, the children and the elderly is a moral as well as political imperative. Tomorrow and later this week Britain will meet its European Union, Contact Group and G8 partners. It should set an example of compassion as well as military resolution.

## MR ZHU GOES TO WASHINGTON

Hard choices that Beijing cannot postpone

Dark economic clouds are gathering over China. Recent weeks have brought unwelcome news for China's foremost moderniser, Zhu Rongji, who this week makes his first visit to the United States as Prime Minister. Having dodged Asia's financial storms for two years, China seems targeted for a downpour. And whether it is headed for deep trouble, or just a muddy fork in the capitalist road, one thing seems clear: state-directed "socialism with Chinese characteristics" is close to its limits. Hard decisions cannot be ducked much longer.

Chinese claims of 7.8 per cent GDP growth last year are exaggerated. Foreign direct investment fell 9.5 per cent in January and February, the worst dip since Deng Xiaoping's reforms began in 1978. China's banks are deeply insolvent. Asia's crisis has hit exports hard. Even the party's insistence that the currency will not be devalued is softening. Although the yuan is sheltered by great walls of control, economists with the ear of Mr Zhu now suggest that devaluation is no longer unthinkable, even if it may not come soon.

For two decades, China's reforms have delivered new wealth and social peace. As growth lags, that peace becomes more fragile: hinterlands brood in rural backwardness, coastal cities fret over the millions of potentially idle migrants in their midsts. Although growth, not Marx, is China's cure-all, grave defects exist: most predate Asia's crisis; and vital structural reforms have yet to be addressed.

Half measures, cover-up, and muddle are all too much the norm. Shrewd and worldly, Mr Zhu grasps the need for bank reform and the closure of unviable state-owned enterprises (SOEs). President Jiang and party elders tremble at the political risks. As the tenth anniversary of Tiananmen comes near, real reform seems riskier than doing nothing.

## MINE OF INFORMATION

The relics of Britain's industrial past must be preserved

The structures which link the present to the past are often delicate. With the death of each human generation, a small bridging strut breaks. With the fading of each memory, the more it matters that physical reminders remain. That is why proposals that a South Wales ironworks and mining area be preserved as a World Heritage Site should be welcomed. Only through visiting places such as this can Britain's young come to understand the industrial foundations on which their future is laid.

Britain was at the heart of the Industrial Revolution and the sweeping technological changes that its innovations wrought. A limited agrarian society harnessed the power of manufacturing capacities and grew into a profitable force. Writers such as William Cobbett celebrated the ingenuity of a new generation when he wrote in his *Letter to the Luddites of Nottingham* that "machines are the produce of the mind of man; their existence distinguishes the man; their civilised man from the savage." But later authors came to discover the grimmer outcomes of industrial growth: poverty, pollution and depression. D.H. Lawrence, Charles Dickens and Elizabeth Gaskell dealt with the human face of a new type of suffering spawned in factories and pits.

These are images that pervade the modern mind. One sided accounts stalk the memory like Lowry's matchstick men. Yet

the full portrait of the industrial worker combines a complex blend of dreams and despair. The industrial era was a confusing synthesis of voluntary escape from rural poverty, disciplined compliance to a new drudgery and a changed sense of the human dignity of labour.

The four massive hillside furnaces and the once famous Big Pit of the Blaenavon site in South Wales should be preserved so that future generations might understand some of these paradoxes. Though many have grandparents (and parents) still alive today who mastered the skills of the miner or iron worker, to many others these skills can seem as remote as the Stone Age arrow maker's craft. Memories should not be taken for granted. History soon consumes its inheritance if it is not put in trust.

Several other British areas are also being considered as World Heritage Sites — the New Forest for instance, Shakespeare's Stratford. All have their merits. All preserve some unspoiled portion of a landscape or culture. But the Blaenavon site with its outmoded machinery and its stretch of canal, its relics of a horse drawn railway and battered warehouses, preserve a distinctively human phase of Britain's history. This Monmouthshire site speaks as much of the people who once lived there as it does of the place itself and should be treasured all the more highly for that.

## Escalation of the conflict in Kosovo

From Sir Alfred Sherman

Sir, I note with concern the assertions that Nato credibility is now at stake, thereby justifying a further escalation of violence against Serbia, not excluding a ground assault and other destructive measures.

If Nato's credibility can survive only by being watered with Serbian blood, is it worth preserving, or indeed preservable? Can it not already have been irreparably destroyed by the decision — taken virtually unilaterally by the US — to transform it from a uniquely successful defensive pact whose objectives had already been achieved to an instrument for politico-military policy?

If Nato cannot be phased out as honourably redundant before its American caretakers employ it in fresh adventures unrelated to its original defensive purposes, should not Britain, one of the original founders, resign and return to bilateral policymaking? Otherwise, not only Nato's credibility will be in question, but Britain's.

Yours sincerely,  
ALFRED SHERMAN  
(Chairman, Lord Byron  
Foundation for Balkan Studies),  
14 Mahern Court,  
Onslow Square, SW7 3HU.  
shermania@compuserve.com  
April 3.

From Mr D. M. G. Bird

Sir, Few, hopefully, in this country would cavil with the need to adopt the strongest possible measures to overcome the appalling evil perpetrated by Milosevic.

At the same time, the public would be justified in imagining that our leaders would take into account the lessons of history and benefit from expert military, diplomatic and political advice. Sadly, they seem to have ignored both, for their actions have resulted in what appears to be a horrifying fiasco, with the prospect of escalating misery, financial cost and loss of life while we attempt to extricate ourselves. The mounting criticism that they did not think their actions through seems to be completely justified.

One can only pray that these military experts have in fact a master plan to put in ground forces, and that our political leaders have the stomach to tell the public that this is the only solution to relieving the misery of the Kosovo Albanians, and possibly hastening the end to this tragic fiasco.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID BIRD,  
The Malt House, Hinton,  
Berkeley, Gloucestershire GL13 9HZ.  
April 4.

From Mr Daniel Bradley

Sir, The Reverend Humphrey Southey (letter, April 1) contrasts, unfairly in my view, the consideration we showed in Iraq by refraining from attacking during Ramadan with our readiness to bomb Serbian military targets during Holy Week.

Nato's urgent and overriding need is to prevent further murder and dispossession of Albanian Kosovans. One minute utilised to save human life is surely an act of Christian charity.

Yours faithfully,  
DAN BRADLEY,  
54 Torkington Street,  
Stockport SK3 9JS.

From the Director of the United Nations Information Centre

Sir, It is not true that the UN secretariat has made no comment on the situation in Kosovo (letter, April 1). The Secretary General Kofi Annan himself has made several statements. On March 24 he said "the moment was a grave one for the international community" and deeply regretted the Yugoslav authorities' rejection of a political settlement.

On March 30 he expressed "profound outrage" at "reports of a vicious and systematic campaign of ethnic cleansing" conducted by Serbian military and paramilitary forces in Kosovo.

He pointed out that the UN, with UNHCR in the lead, was doing everything possible to alleviate the suffering of Kosovan refugees. The UN is also monitoring the political and military situation and is in close contact with Nato.

Sincerely,  
AHMAD FAWZI, Director,  
United Nations Information Centre,  
Millbank Tower (21st Floor),  
21-24 Millbank, SWIP 4QH.  
April 1.

From Dr Clive Layton

Sir, You published today (April 2) a letter about the Kosovo problem from James Tulloch (aged 13) which is a model of clarity. My appreciation of the serious point made was clouded by the need you felt to give the writer's age.

Are we intended to take the letter less seriously because he is aged 13? Or are we meant to be awestruck by the intellect of one so young? The inclusion of the writer's age is a distraction and represents an example of ageism that should not be acceptable.

Yours faithfully,  
CLIVE LAYTON (aged 54),  
Woodview, Abbots Roding,  
Ongar, Essex CM5 0JJ.  
layton@softlay-software.demon.co.uk  
April 2.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Second chamber's democratic role

From Lord Skidelsky

Sir, The Conservative MP Andrew Tyrie believes that "in the 21st century only a chamber backed by the legitimacy of the ballot box can hope to command the public consent required to fulfil a constitutional role" (article, March 26; leading article, April 1). The choice, he wrote, is between "bicameral democracy and the de facto uni-cameralism that the Lords Bill will probably bequeath us". "Bicameral democracy" is needed to counter the domination of Parliament by the Executive.

This familiar argument ignores the way the British constitution works. Governments rely on a disciplined party majority to get their business through the House of Commons. The weak legitimacy of the House of Lords ensures that they get their legislation through the Lords as well — albeit improved and amended — without the necessity of a whipped majority there.

If the second chamber acquires the "legitimacy of the ballot box" governments will need to ensure majorities there to get their business through Parliament. How would this weaken the power of the Executive? The flaw in Tyrie's argument is that it is precisely the weak legitimacy of the Lords which makes our constitution work. I have never heard a convincing answer to this objection.

We can all think of electoral arrangements (eg. staggered voting) which will get us out of this bind. But in so far as the object of all such devices is to make it more difficult for the government to get its business through Parliament, they will be resisted by any government of any party; which is why they will remain conversation pieces.

Yours sincerely,  
ROBERT SKIDELSKY,  
House of Lords,  
April 1.

From Mr Leonard Allen

Sir, Our second parliamentary chamber (letters, March 30 and 31) is

## National Trust praised

From Sir Francis Dashwood

Sir, There has been criticism of the National Trust and its respect for donors' wishes following its decision not to renew its licences for stag-hunting in the West Country (report, October 2, 1998; letters, November 12, 17, 30 and January 7).

However, my experience since 1963, when I took over the lease of my family home, West Wycombe Park, which my father gave to the trust in 1944, confirms that it does its utmost to abide by donors' wishes.

During the 36 years I have spent restoring the interior of the house and the landscape garden to its 18th-century state the National Trust has encouraged me. Now I am about to move out to make way for my son and his family.

I am confident that the trust will continue to abide by my father's wishes as it has assured me, and will treat my son in the same courteous and constructive manner as it has treated me.

The trust's determination to conserve our heritage with the help of its army of enthusiastic volunteers and dedicated management and staff deserves praise and encouragement.

Yours faithfully,  
FRANCIS DASHWOOD,  
West Wycombe Park Office,  
West Wycombe,  
Buckinghamshire HP14 3AJ.  
April 2.

## Woman in sport

From Miss Laura Stobart

Sir, As a keen (but not necessarily talented) university and friendly-level sportswoman with a passion for football, I have often come up against unhelpful male — and female — attitudes to women's sport (report and Alyson Rudd's article, March 31). I was particularly disappointed in Ms Rudd's call for mixed competition.

Why should women have to compete with men in every arena? Surely it is more exciting watching Venus and Serena Williams slug it out on the tennis court at something like an even level than it would be watching every Sampras serve go past Hings? And yes, it would matter if "49 times out of 50 a man took gold and silver and a

unique. Its membership is drawn from every profession and field of human endeavour. Many have achieved distinction in their chosen occupation. Some are of international repute.

The crossbenchers bring their own independent contribution and the hereditary peers their own style and approach; many are from families that have served the State for generations, even centuries. There is a degree of freedom from party restraint that is refreshing and, on occasions, extremely valuable.

There is no way such a forum could be brought about by a general election. And yet, for the sake of some theory of democracy, or from envy or from outdated class prejudice, we are about to destroy this chamber of all the talents.

We must be mad!

Yours faithfully,  
LEONARD ALLEN,  
8 Carmel Court,  
Highfield, Marlow,  
Buckinghamshire SL7 2LF.  
April 4.

From Mr William Hutton

Sir, I wonder what percentage of the electorate would be prepared to vote for noble members of a second chamber who might be too clearly seen as there to second-guess those who are elected as members of the Commons.

Po-haps the commission on the future of the Lords would be well advised to take soundings on the likely complicity of the electorate in their proposed findings? I suspect, particularly in the light of the emerging parliaments and assemblies in the United Kingdom, that there could be widespread apathy in voting intentions for a House of Lords. Indeed, there could be so little interest that the result of change might bring our hard-won democratic processes into disrepute.

Yours truly,  
WILLIAM HUTTON,  
8 Sutherland Avenue, Potts Wood,  
Orpington, Kent BR5 1QZ.  
April 3.

## Running the BBC

From Mr David Sullivan Proudfoot

Sir, It will be disastrous for the country, both at home and internationally, if all concerned with the appointment of the BBC's next Director-General share the apathy shown by Antoine Palmer (article, March 30).

The managerial destruction of the BBC can be reversed, and one must pray that the right candidate makes himself available.

I was the BBC's Head of Television Training during 1978-80, after 26 years' work at every level of television drama programme-making. The advertisement for my replacement stated: "Production experience not essential." My job was among the first of many where programme zeal was replaced by administrative aspiration.

Remember the golden triumvirate of Sirs Hugh Carlton-Greene, Huw Wheldon and David Attenborough — all practised broadcasters — and the marvellous programmes they encouraged.

Government and governors take note, Young Turks, please step forward.

Yours etc,  
DAVID SULLIVAN PROUDFOOT,  
Crossbones Cottage,  
Grove, Portland,  
Dorset DT5 1DA.  
starland@sufford.org  
March 30.

## Woman took bronze and sixth place

"This would simply demoralise women athletes, reinforce the attitude that women cannot compete with men, and lead to the one woman who did win being held up as masculine (as in many non-sporting male fields).

I am not arguing for total segregation, especially in sports like equestrianism or racing where there is no physical need, or at the friendly level where each may do as they please.

But at the highest level, why not keep it separate, and give young girls somewhere they can aim for the very top — not for a place behind yet another man.

Yours etc,  
LAURA STOBART,  
31a Rush Hill Road, SW11 5NW.  
March 31.

## Coming and going

From Dr Patrick Harris

Sir, Recently I find that the news programmes spend most of the time forecasting future events while the weather reports spend their time telling me about the weather I have just had.

Yours,  
PATRICK HARRIS,  
12 Linner Close, Cannock,  
Staffordshire WS12 4TP.  
patrickharris@freemove.co.uk  
March 31.

Letters to the Editor for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046 — or by e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

## Justice of equal age of consent

From the Chair of Christians for Human Rights and others

Sir, The House of Commons has decisively and consistently voted for equality and protection of the vulnerable in the third reading of the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill.

The House of Lords must now decide whether it wishes to promote the health and safety of young gay men through equalising the age of consent or continue their criminalisation.

As people of faith committed to social justice, we seek to refocus attention upon the fundamental principles of the Bill. The proposed legislation is not concerned with legalising or promoting particular forms of sexual behaviour but with equalisation under the law and the appropriate protection of those vulnerable to abuse.

Contrary to some of the comments made by the Bill's opponents, nothing in the social justice teachings of our faith traditions can be used to argue against such legislation. The Sexual Offences Bill builds upon a key principle within our faith traditions: that the human person is created with a unique dignity, worthy of respect and equality before the law.

Even if some religious teachings promote the view that homosexual activity, as a matter of choice, is unethical, justice demands the defence of lesbian and gay people's human rights. It is inappropriate to adjudicate on such civil liberties issues solely using personal sexual ethics principles. Opposing the morality of certain sexual practices — the subject of wide debate across a range of theological traditions — ought not to entail collusion with campaigns to maintain discrimination.

Perpetuating inequality in the age of consent places intolerable strains upon families and parents seeking to support their gay and lesbian children. The experience of many parents' support organisations in this field confirms that removal of current inequalities and consequent stress, far from undermining family structures, will actually strengthen them.

Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN PENDERGAST,  
Chair, Christians for Human Rights,  
MICHAEL BOURKE,  
Bishop of Wolverhampton,  
GRAHAM DALE,  
Director, Christian Socialist Movement,  
SUSAN HALEY,  
Called To Be One:  
Catholic Parents' Network,  
RICHARD HOLLOWAY,  
Bishop of Edinburgh,  
JULIA NEUBERGER,  
Chief Executive, The King's Fund,  
Christians for Human Rights,  
PO Box 24632,  
London E9 6FX.  
April 4.

## Wedding gaffe

From Mr G. F. deC. Sizer

Sir, I read Mr W. H. Henderson's letter (March 31) with such relief — it absolved me, after nearly 60 years, of an awful moral burden.

My wife and I were married in 1939 and I was responsible, in the vestry, for entering on the marriage certificate, under "occupation of father", the description "Assistant Director of Education" — which I thought to be true. Some years afterwards I realised that, although my father had had the closest association with his director, he had in fact been chief clerk to the education committee. Oh, the embarrassment when I realised what I had done.

Now, bless him, Mr Henderson suggests that the President of the European Commission be reclassified as "Director-General, or even Chief Clerk". I approach our diamond wedding with a much lighter heart.

Yours sincerely,  
GEOFF SIZER,  
64 Saint Mary's Road,  
Benfleet, Essex SS7 1NN.  
April 1.

## Harder and harder

From Mr William T. Potter

Sir, Is it a sign of diminishing intellectual powers with advancing years, or am I right in perceiving a marked increase in the difficulty of the clues in *The Times* Two Crossword?

Some of them seem to me to equal, or even surpass, those in the Saturday Crossword.

Yours in puzzlement,  
WILLIAM T. POTTER,  
6 Higher Down,  
Kenton, Exeter, Devon EX6 8NG.  
April 3.

## Clarification sought

From Mr Anthony P. Moran

Sir, Driving past the main gate of a military establishment recently, I noticed a guard who appeared to be wearing a you-can't-see-me camouflage uniform superimposed upon which was a you-can't-miss-me fluorescent yellow waistcoat.

I wonder if there is an appropriate word or expression for this odd conflict of purpose?

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY P. MORAN,  
37 Monckton Road,  
Gosport, Hampshire PO12 2BG.  
April 5.



SOCIAL  
NEWSToday's royal  
engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, trustee, will chair a meeting of The Prince Philip Trust Fund for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, at Windsor Castle, at 6.15. The Prince of Wales will visit Cantraybridge Rural Skills College, Cawdor, Nairn; will visit Hunters of Brora, Sutherland; will visit the Royal and Oncology Departments at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, and as patron, Macmillan Cancer Relief, will unveil a bench outside the hospital.

## University news

**London**  
Royal Holloway College  
Appointments  
Dr Cynthia Ebinger, BSc(Duke), SM MIT, PhD (MIT/Woods Hole), reader, geology, from January 25, 1999.  
Dr Andy Field, BSc (City), DPhil (Sussex), lecturer, psychology from September 1, 1998.  
Dr Peter French, BSc (Kingston), PhD (Reading), lecturer, geography, from September 1, 1998.  
Anna Rukshansky, Dr rer.nat. (Freiburg), lecturer, computer science, from September 1, 1998.  
Dr Jocelyn Gamble, BA (Oxford Brookes), MA, PhD (London), lecturer, management, from September 1, 1998.  
Mr Simon Holt, FRNCM, lecturer, composer in residence, from September 16, 1998, to September 30, 2003.  
Dr Susan Mandala, BA Carlisle Pennsylvania (US), MPhil (Cambridge), lecturer, English, from September 1, 1998, to August 31, 2000.  
Dr Steven McGuire, BA (Calgary), MA (Toronto), DPhil (Oxon), lecturer, management, from September 1, 1998.  
Dr Jayalaxmi Mistry, BSc (London), PhD (London), lecturer, geography from September 1, 1998.  
Dr David Morris, BSc Botany and Zoology (Bristol), PhD Zoology (Bristol), lecturer, biological sciences, from October 1, 1999.  
Dr Andrew Mountford, BA (Cambridge), PhD (Browne University), lecturer, economics, from September 1, 1998.  
Dr Catherine Nash, BA (Nottingham), PhD (Nottingham), lecturer, Geography from September 1, 1998.  
Dr Gül Berna Özcan, BSc (Dokuz Eylül), MSc, MEdU, PhD (London), lecturer, management, from September 1, 1998.  
Dr Teresa Peck, BA (Mancini), MA, PhD (Texas), CPsychol, Licensed Clinical Psychologist (California), senior lecturer, psychology from September 14, 1998, to September 13, 2002.  
Dr Tamar Pincus, MSc (Lond), MPhil (Canab), PhD (London), lecturer, psychology, from September 1, 1998.  
Professor Kenneth Pye, BA, MA (Oxon), PhD, ScD (Canab), chair, Department of Geology, from September 1, 1998.  
Dr Jorge Torao, BSc (Mexico), MSc (Guadalajara, Mexico), PhD molecular biology (Lond), lecturer, biosciences, from Jan 1, 1999.  
Dr Josephine Whitty, MA (Oxon), PhD (Edinburgh), part-time lecturer in literature of late antiquity and classical antecedents, from September 1, 1998, to August 31, 2000.  
Dr Alison Woodcock, BA (Reading), PGCE (Warwick), PhD (Reading), AFPS, lecturer, psychology, from September 1, 1998, to August 31, 2001.  
Dr Joanne Wright, BA (Joint Hons), Cantab, MLit (Aberdeen), PhD (Australian National Univ), senior lecturer, social and political science, from Jan 1, 1999.

Birthdays  
today

Lord Frederick Windsor is 20.

Other birthdays include:  
Mr Pranita Belsky, sculptor, 78; Sir Paul Bessford, MP, 55; Miss Joan Bernard, former Principal, Trevelyan College, Durham, 81; Mr Rodney Bickerstaffe, trades unionist, 54; Mr Rory Bremner, impressionist, 38; Miss Joan Carlyle, soprano, 68; Mr Bernard Carter, painter and etcher, 79; Mr Harry Conroy, author, 56; Mr Roger Cook, investigative journalist and broadcaster, 56; Mr Paul Daniels, magician, 61; Admiral Sir Desmond Dwyer, 89; Mr Julian Faber, former chairman, Willis Faber, 82; Sir Angus Grossart, former chairman of the board of trustees, National Galleries of Scotland, 82; Mr Willis Hall, writer, 70; Professor David Ingram, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Kent at Canterbury, 72; Sir John Knox, former High Court Judge, 74; the Duke of Montrose, 76; Lord Moore of Wolverhampton, 78; the Rev Ian Paisley, MP, MEP, 73; Miss Felicity Palmer, mezzo-soprano, 55; Mr André Previn, KBE, conductor, 70; Sir Marcus Wasley, former Lord-Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, 74.

Forthcoming  
marriages

Mr P.D. Pickering and Miss S.A.M. Pearson  
The engagement is announced between Dean, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Ronald Pickering, of Liphed, Surrey, and Sally, daughter of Mr and Mrs Malcolm Pearson, of Stelford, Nottinghamshire.

## Anniversaries

**BIRTHS:** Jean Baptiste Rousseau, poet, Paris, 1671; James Mill, utilitarian philosopher, Logicport, near Montrose, 1773; Alexander Herzen, writer and socialist, Moscow, 1812; Harry Houdini, escapologist, Appleton, Wisconsin, 1874; Anthony Herman Fokker, aviator, aircraft designer, Kester, Java, 1890.  
**DEATHS:** King Richard I, reigned 1189-99, Chatham, France, 1199; Raphael, painter, Rome, 1520; Albrecht Dürer, painter and engraver, Nuremberg, 1528; Sir Francis Washington, statesman, London, 1593; John Snow, anatomist, London, 1858; Sir Seymour Hicks, Fleet, Hampshire, 1949; Jules Bordet, bacteriologist, Nobel laureate 1919, Brussels, 1961; Igor Stravinsky, composer, New York, 1971.  
An earthquake tremor damaged St Paul's Cathedral, 1580.  
The Norman Church was founded by Joseph Smith at Fayette, New York, 1830.  
Robert Peary arrived at the North Pole, 1909.  
The United States declared war on Germany, 1917.

Professor Stuart  
Sutherland

A memorial ceremony celebrating Professor Stuart Sutherland's life will be held on Saturday, May 1, at 3.00pm at The Meeting House, Sussex University, Falmer, Brighton. All friends, colleagues and students are welcome. RSVP if possible: Gay Sutherland, 43a Melford Road, London SE22 0AQ, 0181 299 2323.

## Latest wills

Mr Oleg Prokofiev, sculptor and painter, and son of the composer, Sergei Prokofiev, of London SE13, left estate valued at £4,350,318 net.  
Mr Paul Odo Willett, oil dealer and art collector, of London SW3, left estate valued at £2,200,744 net.  
Mr Epirine Eshag, economist and fellow of Wadham College, Oxford, left estate valued at £503,650 net.  
Among other bequests he left £20,000 to the college for maintenance of college paintings, silver and crockery.



Four-year-old Charlie Saunders with his London trolley was among the contestants yesterday at Battersea Park — the original birthplace of the London Carthorse Parade in 1885 — for the London Harness Horse Parade

The Leverhulme trustees agreed at their recent meeting to award the following grants totalling £2,563,200 to institutions for research and education:

**Research: law, politics, international relations**  
University of Exeter, Dr J A Vincent, £49,100 over 12 months. Older people's and British political processes.  
**Research: basic sciences**  
University of Leeds, Dr J Krause, University of Glasgow, Dr G D Ruxton, £44,700 over 2 years, differential costs and benefits relating to spatial positions within fish shoals.  
Zoological Society of London, Dr P Armbruster, £25,420 over 12 months, the influence of environmental and genetic interactions on extinction dynamics.  
Scottish Crop Research Institute, Dr R Waugh, MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, University of Cambridge, Dr P Dear, £209,570 over 3 years, high throughput, high resolution physical mapping in plants.  
St George's Hospital Medical School, University of London, Dr

## Leverhulme Trust awards

M K Richardson, University College London, Dr M Coates, £88,000 over 3 years, patterns of evolutionary change in vertebrate embryonic development.  
University of Bristol, Dr G W Neilson, £52,950 over 2 years, hydrophobic hydration and the hydrophobic effect: methane-water mixtures.  
University of Hull, Dr J E Nicholls, Dr S M Kelly, Dr M O'Neill, Dr C G Scott, £37,900 over 3 years, nanocrystalline polymer structures for model microcavity lasers.  
University of Leeds, Dr A Nelson, £55,220 over 2 years, strategies for asymmetric synthesis: sequential and parallel kinetic resolutions.  
University of Sussex, Professor M F Lappert, £62,640 over 2 years, new spectator ligands and their metal complexes as novel catalysts.  
Royal Institution of Great Britain, Professor C R A Catlow, £48,170 over 5 years, solid state and computational chemistry.  
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, Dr T

Welton, Dr G B Young, £96,150 over 3 years, ionic liquids: non-volatile, environmentally friendly solvents for chemistry.  
Physical & Theoretical Chemistry Laboratory, University of Oxford, Professor J M Brown, £63,980.00 over 2 years, the properties of carbon chain molecules, studied by infrared spectroscopy.  
University of Glasgow, Dr D I Stott, Dr P Garside, Dr R Aiken, £66,380 over 2 years, the mechanism of somatic hypermutation in germinal centre B-cells.  
Queen Mary and Westfield College, Dr C G Faulkner, £94,610 over 3 years, inbreeding avoidance and the evolution of eusociality in the Damaraland mole-rat.  
University of the West of England, Bristol, Dr H Macdonald, £13,270 over 6 months, guard cells as a model system for investigating action signalling.  
University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Dr P Farrington, £86,270 over 3 years, sedimentary horizons: marker compounds for past

environments.  
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, Professor M R Palmer, £101,040 over 3 years, variations in iron isotope compositions in the natural environment.  
University of Wales College of Cardiff, Dr U Hahn, University of Warwick, Professor N Chater, £10,480 over 6 months, testing representational distortion — a new theory of similarity.  
**Research: applied sciences (including architecture)**  
University College London, Professor FT Smith, Dr G X Wu, £90,020 over 3 years, boundary-layer analysis of flow near the waterline of a surface-piercing body.  
Royal Holloway, Dr R Inria, £41,480 over 15 months, architects and disabling design in the built environment.  
University of Edinburgh, Dr P A Furley, Dr S E Metcalfe, Dr A J Dugmore, Dr A W Tudhope, £56,590 over 2 years, reconstruction of environmental change in

Church  
news

Latest appointments include:  
The Rev Paul Firmin, Vicar, Shrewsbury Holy Trinity w St Julian (Lichfield), to be Vicar, Aspley, Clive, Grinshill and Hadnall (same diocese).  
Canon Michael Fisher, formerly Vicar, Newquay (Truro), to be Canon Emeritus of Truro Cathedral.  
Prebendary Ann Hadley, Rector, Myddle, and Vicar, Broughton, and Diocesan Vocations Officer (Lichfield), to be interim Priest-in-Charge, Harvington (Worcester).  
The Rev Robert Law, Rector, St Colum Major with St Wynn, and Rural Dean of Pydar (Truro), to be Honorary Canon of Truro Cathedral.  
The Rev Jack Maple, Rector, St Marylebone St Paul (London), to be Priest-in-Charge, Fulham St Alban with St Augustine and Fulham St Peter.  
The Rev Paul Maybury, Assistant Curate, Spondon (Derby), to be Vicar, Gawthorpe and Chickensley Heath (Wakefield).  
The Rev Chris McQuillen-Wright, Assistant Curate, Godfrey (Truro), to be Team Vicar, Bodmin with Lanhedock and Lanivet (same diocese).  
The Rev Graham Minors, Vicar, Cainscross St Matthew and Selsey All Saints, and Rural Dean of Stonehouse (Gloucester), to be Team Rector, Bodmin with Lanhedock and Lanivet (Truro).  
The Rev Lesley Perrins, NSM Assistant Curate, Haxby Wigginton (York), to be Assistant Chaplain, York Healthcare Trust.  
The Rev Malcolm Pickering, Priest-in-Charge, Badminton with Stroud, Cranford and Dennington (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich), to be Vicar, Leiston (same diocese).  
The Rev Robin Pirrie, Curate, Kings Lynn St Margaret with St Nicholas (Norwich), to be Vicar, Torrington Estuary Team (Exeter).  
The Rev James Richards, half-time Assistant Curate, Kendal Holy Trinity (Carlisle), to be Rector, Windermere St Martin (same diocese).  
The Rev Patricia Robson, Priest-in-Charge, St Ender (Truro), to be Honorary Canon of Truro Cathedral (same diocese).  
The Rev Robert Rogers, Assistant Chaplain, York Healthcare Trust (York), to be Senior Chaplain, York Healthcare Trust.  
The Rev Ian Scott, Assistant Chaplain, University Hospital Birmingham NHS Trust, to be Chaplain, South Warwickshire Combined Care NHS Trust (Coventry).

Something  
new out of  
ancient  
Timbuktu

By NORMAN HAMMOND  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
CORRESPONDENT

TIMBUKTU, to most of us epitomises those far-off places of which we know little: even Bishop Samuel Wilberforce's famous Victorian doggerel about the missionary and the "cassowary on the plains of Timbuktu" was ornithologically incorrect. So it is hardly surprising that the first archaeological excavation ever done in the remote West African city took place only last year.

Archaeological research in Timbuktu poses several challenges, according to Dr Timothy Insoll of Manchester University. "These include the great depth of the deposits and the danger in excavating them," he says. Among the hazards which he found were unstable layers of horse dung, from colonial French cavalry stabling next to one trench, which had a habit of collapsing on to the excavators.

Although some of the excavations reached a depth of 10ft, much of the deposits were relatively recent tobacco pipe stems were found even in the lowest layers reached, showing that they must post-date the 16th century and the introduction of tobacco from America. In North America, the diameter of the pipe-stem bore has proved a reliable dating tool.

The artefacts found at Timbuktu, currently on display at the British Museum, were different from those Dr Insoll has found at the earlier site of Gao, some distance downstream on the Niger although still in the Republic of Mali. Both cities lay within the medieval empire of Mali, and also the succeeding 16th-century empire of Songhay centred on Gao.

Timbuktu, however, lay in the more strategic location, where the trade route linking Fez and the Gold Coast through the Sahara crossed the salt route from Ijil in Mauritania to the Hausa states of northern Nigeria.

Dr Insoll expects much earlier finds to emerge: borings made during construction of a new water tower showed some 50ft of occupation deposits. He proposes to use a coring machine, such as Dr Roderick McIntosh has used at the Jenne site further up the Niger, to document prehistoric occupation and the first urban developments in West Africa.

"The steps needed to complete archaeological investigation of the origins and development of Timbuktu are now understood," Dr Insoll said. "There is a great difference between what might be indicated on the surface, and what in reality exists below ground." He plans to return at the end of next year: the new millennium may see fresh light on this ancient crossroads of Africa.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880  
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

## PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982  
FAX: 0171 481 9313

## DEATHS

BLAKE - Ida Mary (Mollie) of Guildford, Surrey aged 83 died on 2nd April 1999.

Beloved wife of the late Fred and dearly loved mother of Richard and adoring grandmother of Rupert, Annabel and Sophie and granddaughters of Harry and Scarlett. Service at Ranelagh Park Crematorium, Leamington at 12 noon on Thursday 8th April.

Family flowers only, but donations in her memory if desired to RNLH c/o James & Thomas Ltd, 7/9 45 East Lane, West Hareley, Surrey GU24 6BQ Tel: 01483 264945.

NORLAND - On 28th March in Los Angeles, to Lucy (née Broadbent) and David, a son, Thomas Christopher Paul.

OWN - On 27th March to Emma (née Bivell) and Nicholas, a son, James Angus Charles, a brother for Katherine.

SEALISTON - On April 1st 1999 to Polly (née Kennedy) and Tommy, a son, Florian David George.

## DEATHS

SELSON - Philip Charles Esau, aged 83 years, after a brief illness, on Wednesday 31st March at Lymington Hospital. Much loved father and grandfather. Family only Cremation Service. Service of Thanksgiving for his life will be held at Bantley Abbey Church on Thursday, 22nd April at 2.30 pm. No flowers please. Donations if desired to Cancer Research Campaign, c/o Diamond & Son Funeral Directors, Lymington, SO41 8DN.

BUTTERWORTH - Sir Helen Louise (Benedict) Butterworth BSM died suddenly but peacefully at home in Sherburn on Monday Thursday aged 77. The funeral Mass will be at 2.00 pm on Wednesday, April 14th at the Church of Our Lady and English Martyrs, Cambridge.

## DEATHS

BLAKE - Ida Mary (Mollie) of Guildford, Surrey aged 83 died on 2nd April 1999.

Beloved wife of the late Fred and dearly loved mother of Richard and adoring grandmother of Rupert, Annabel and Sophie and granddaughters of Harry and Scarlett. Service at Ranelagh Park Crematorium, Leamington at 12 noon on Thursday 8th April.

Family flowers only, but donations in her memory if desired to RNLH c/o James & Thomas Ltd, 7/9 45 East Lane, West Hareley, Surrey GU24 6BQ Tel: 01483 264945.

NORLAND - On 28th March in Los Angeles, to Lucy (née Broadbent) and David, a son, Thomas Christopher Paul.

OWN - On 27th March to Emma (née Bivell) and Nicholas, a son, James Angus Charles, a brother for Katherine.

SEALISTON - On April 1st 1999 to Polly (née Kennedy) and Tommy, a son, Florian David George.

## DEATHS

SELSON - Philip Charles Esau, aged 83 years, after a brief illness, on Wednesday 31st March at Lymington Hospital. Much loved father and grandfather. Family only Cremation Service. Service of Thanksgiving for his life will be held at Bantley Abbey Church on Thursday, 22nd April at 2.30 pm. No flowers please. Donations if desired to Cancer Research Campaign, c/o Diamond & Son Funeral Directors, Lymington, SO41 8DN.

BUTTERWORTH - Sir Helen Louise (Benedict) Butterworth BSM died suddenly but peacefully at home in Sherburn on Monday Thursday aged 77. The funeral Mass will be at 2.00 pm on Wednesday, April 14th at the Church of Our Lady and English Martyrs, Cambridge.

## DEATHS

LAYZELL - Stephen Weston. Entered into the presence of the Lord he loved and served for over 50 years, suddenly in hospital, on Tuesday 30th March, aged 71. He will be greatly missed by his wife, family, church fellowship and many friends. Lady Layzell, Managing Director, Blake Marston Private, Insurance Brokers, served the Lord faithfully as member, deacon and elder in the church at St Andrew's and as teacher and Superintendent in the Sunday School and Grace Baptist Trust Corporation. SB Trust and with Pilgrim House. The Funeral Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving will be held at Hambro Road Baptist Church, Streatham, at 2 pm on Monday 12th April. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to St John's Church, Dunsbury at 2 pm. Please no flowers but donations, if wished, to the Grace Baptist Trust Corporation, will be gratefully received by the family via Downett and Jenkins Funeral Directors, 1807 London Road, Norbury, SW16 4AE, telephone - 0181 764 2912.

PAUL - Jonathan Martin peacefully on March 31st 1999 aged 58 years. Private family funeral. A Service of Celebration will be held at St Mary le Tower Church Ipswich on Friday April 16th at 3.00 pm. No flowers please but donations if desired for Cancer Research may be sent to Farthing, Singleton & Hastings, 654 Woodbridge Road, Ipswich IP4 4PW.

PLUNKET - Alison Sybil Mary (née Calne) at home peacefully on March 31st. Funeral Service at St George's Church, Ipswich on Friday April 16th at 10.00 am. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for C.A.F.O.D. are being accepted c/o A G Owen F/D, 85 South Street, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3NN. Tel: 01308 422642.

MAILEY - Margaret (Rita). On the eve of her 80th birthday, in London. Widow of W. E. (Bill). Much loved mother, mother-in-law and grandmother. Great-grandmother of Elizabeth.

SCOTT - Peacefully in hospital on the 31st March 1999 Roger Oldrid aged 90 years of Morcombe, Bedfordshire. Funeral Mass to be held at Bridport Roman Catholic Church on Friday April 16th at 10.00 am. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for C.A.F.O.D. are being accepted c/o A G Owen F/D, 85 South Street, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3NN. Tel: 01308 422642.

MAILEY - Margaret (Rita). On the eve of her 80th birthday, in London. Widow of W. E. (Bill). Much loved mother, mother-in-law and grandmother. Great-grandmother of Elizabeth.

SCOTT - Peacefully in hospital on the 31st March 1999 Roger Oldrid aged 90 years of Morcombe, Bedfordshire. Funeral Mass to be held at Bridport Roman Catholic Church on Friday April 16th at 10.00 am. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for C.A.F.O.D. are being accepted c/o A G Owen F/D, 85 South Street, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3NN. Tel: 01308 422642.

MAILEY - Margaret (Rita). On the eve of her 80th birthday, in London. Widow of W. E. (Bill). Much loved mother, mother-in-law and grandmother. Great-grandmother of Elizabeth.

SCOTT - Peacefully in hospital on the 31st March 1999 Roger Oldrid aged 90 years of Morcombe, Bedfordshire. Funeral Mass to be held at Bridport Roman Catholic Church on Friday April 16th at 10.00 am. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for C.A.F.O.D. are being accepted c/o A G Owen F/D, 85 South Street, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3NN. Tel: 01308 422642.

MAILEY - Margaret (Rita). On the eve of her 80th birthday, in London. Widow of W. E. (Bill). Much loved mother, mother-in-law and grandmother. Great-grandmother of Elizabeth.

SCOTT - Peacefully in hospital on the 31st March 1999 Roger Oldrid aged 90 years of Morcombe, Bedfordshire. Funeral Mass to be held at Bridport Roman Catholic Church on Friday April 16th at 10.00 am. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for C.A.F.O.D. are being accepted c/o A G Owen F/D, 85 South Street, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3NN. Tel: 01308 422642.

MAILEY - Margaret (Rita). On the eve of her 80th birthday, in London. Widow of W. E. (Bill). Much loved mother, mother-in-law and grandmother. Great-grandmother of Elizabeth.

SCOTT - Peacefully in hospital on the 31st March 1999 Roger Oldrid aged 90 years of Morcombe, Bedfordshire. Funeral Mass to be held at Bridport Roman Catholic Church on Friday April 16th at 10.00 am. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for C.A.F.O.D. are being accepted c/o A G Owen F/D, 85 South Street, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3NN. Tel: 01308 422642.

MAILEY - Margaret (Rita). On the eve of her 80th birthday, in London. Widow of W. E. (Bill). Much loved mother, mother-in-law and grandmother. Great-grandmother of Elizabeth.

SCOTT - Peacefully in hospital on the 31st March 1999 Roger Oldrid aged 90 years of Morcombe, Bedfordshire. Funeral Mass to be held at Bridport Roman Catholic Church on Friday April 16th at 10.00 am. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for C.A.F.O.D. are being accepted c/o A G Owen F/D, 85 South Street, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3NN. Tel: 01308 422642.

MAILEY - Margaret (Rita). On the eve of her 80th birthday, in London. Widow of W. E. (Bill). Much loved mother, mother-in-law and grandmother. Great-grandmother of Elizabeth.

SCOTT - Peacefully in hospital on the 31st March 1999 Roger Oldrid aged 90 years of Morcombe, Bedfordshire. Funeral Mass to be held at Bridport Roman Catholic Church on Friday April 16th at 10.00 am. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for C.A.F.O.D. are being accepted c/o A G Owen F/D, 85 South Street, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3NN. Tel: 01308 422642.

MAILEY - Margaret (Rita). On the eve of her 80th birthday, in London. Widow of W. E. (Bill). Much loved mother, mother-in-law and grandmother. Great-grandmother of Elizabeth.

SCOTT - Peacefully in hospital on the 31st March 1999 Roger Oldrid aged 90 years of Morcombe, Bedfordshire. Funeral Mass to be held at Bridport Roman Catholic Church on Friday April 16th at 10.00 am. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for C.A.F.O.D. are being accepted c/o A G Owen F/D, 85 South Street, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3NN. Tel: 01308 422642.

MAILEY - Margaret (Rita). On the eve of her 80th birthday, in London. Widow of W. E. (Bill). Much loved mother, mother-in-law and grandmother. Great-grandmother of Elizabeth.

SCOTT - Peacefully in hospital on the 31st March 1999 Roger Oldrid aged 90 years of Morcombe, Bedfordshire. Funeral Mass to be held at Bridport Roman Catholic Church on Friday April 16th at 10.00 am. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for C.A.F.O.D. are being accepted c/o A G Owen F/D, 85 South Street, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3NN. Tel: 01308 422642.

MAILEY - Margaret (Rita). On the eve of her 80th birthday, in London. Widow of W. E. (Bill). Much loved mother, mother-in-law and grandmother. Great-grandmother of Elizabeth.

SCOTT - Peacefully in hospital on the 31st March 1999 Roger Oldrid aged 90 years of Morcombe, Bedfordshire. Funeral Mass to be held at Bridport Roman Catholic Church on Friday April 16th at 10.00 am. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for C.A.F.O.D. are being accepted c/o A G Owen F/D, 85 South Street, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3NN. Tel: 01308 422642.

MAILEY - Margaret (Rita). On the eve of her 80th birthday, in London. Widow of W. E. (Bill). Much loved mother, mother-in-law and grandmother. Great-grandmother of Elizabeth.

SCOTT - Peacefully in hospital on the 31st March 1999 Roger Oldrid aged 90 years of Morcombe, Bedfordshire. Funeral Mass to be held at Bridport Roman Catholic Church on Friday April 16th at 10.00 am. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for C.A.F.O.D. are being accepted c/o A G Owen F/D, 85 South Street, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3NN. Tel: 01308 422642.

MAILEY - Margaret (Rita). On the eve of her 80th birthday, in London. Widow of W. E. (Bill). Much loved mother, mother-in-law and grandmother. Great-grandmother of Elizabeth.

SCOTT - Peacefully in hospital on the 31st March 1999 Roger Oldrid aged 90 years of Morcombe, Bedfordshire. Funeral Mass to be held at Bridport Roman Catholic Church on Friday April 16th at 10.00 am. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for C.A.F.O.D. are being accepted c/o A G Owen F/D, 85 South Street, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3NN. Tel: 01308 422642.

MAILEY - Margaret (Rita). On the eve of her 80th birthday, in London. Widow of W. E. (Bill). Much loved mother, mother-in-law and grandmother. Great-grandmother of Elizabeth.

SCOTT - Peacefully in hospital on the 31st March 1999 Roger Oldrid aged 90 years of Morcombe, Bedfordshire. Funeral Mass to be held at Bridport Roman Catholic Church on Friday April 16th at 10.00 am. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for C.A.F.O.D. are being accepted c/o A G Owen F/D, 85 South Street, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3NN. Tel: 01308 422642.

MAILEY - Margaret (Rita). On the eve of her 80th birthday, in London. Widow of W. E. (Bill). Much loved mother, mother-in-law and grandmother. Great-grandmother of Elizabeth.

SCOTT - Peacefully in hospital on the 31st March 1999 Roger Oldrid aged 90 years of Morcombe, Bedfordshire. Funeral Mass to be held at Bridport Roman Catholic Church on Friday April 16th at 10.00 am. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for C.A.F.O.D. are being accepted c/o A G Owen F/D, 85 South Street, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3NN. Tel: 01308 422642.

MAILEY - Margaret (Rita). On the eve of her 80th birthday, in London. Widow of W. E. (Bill). Much loved mother, mother-in-law and grandmother. Great-grandmother of Elizabeth.

SCOTT - Peacefully in hospital on the 31st March 1999 Roger Oldrid aged 90 years of Morcombe, Bedfordshire. Funeral Mass to be held at Bridport Roman Catholic Church on Friday April 16th at 10.00 am. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for C.A.F.O.D. are being accepted c/o A G Owen F/D, 85 South Street, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3NN. Tel: 01308 422642.

MAILEY - Margaret (Rita). On the eve of her 80th birthday, in London. Widow of W. E. (Bill). Much loved mother, mother-in-law and grandmother. Great-grandmother of Elizabeth.

SCOTT - Peacefully in hospital on the 31st March 1999 Roger Oldrid aged 90 years of Morcombe, Bedfordshire. Funeral Mass to be held at Bridport Roman Catholic Church on Friday April 16th at 10.00 am. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for C.A.F.O.D. are being accepted c/o A G Owen F/D, 85 South Street, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3NN. Tel: 01308 422642.

MAILEY - Margaret (Rita). On the eve of her 80th birthday, in London. Widow of W. E. (Bill). Much loved mother, mother-in-law and grandmother. Great-grandmother of Elizabeth.

SCOTT - Peacefully in hospital on the 31st March 1999 Roger Oldrid aged 90 years of Morcombe, Bedfordshire. Funeral Mass to be held at Bridport Roman Catholic Church on Friday April 16th at 10.00 am. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for C.A.F.O.D. are being accepted c/o A G Owen F/D, 85 South Street, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3NN. Tel: 01308 422642.

MAILEY - Margaret (Rita). On the eve of her 80th birthday, in London. Widow of W. E. (Bill). Much loved mother, mother-in-law and grandmother. Great-grandmother of Elizabeth.

SCOTT - Peacefully in hospital on the 31st March 1999 Roger Oldrid aged 90 years of Morcombe, Bedfordshire. Funeral Mass to be held at Bridport Roman Catholic Church on Friday April 16th at 10.00 am. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for C.A.F.O.D. are being accepted c/o A G Owen F/D, 85 South Street, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3NN. Tel: 01308 422642.

MAILEY - Margaret (Rita). On the eve of her 80th birthday, in London. Widow of W. E. (Bill). Much loved mother, mother-in-law and grandmother. Great-grandmother of Elizabeth.

SCOTT - Peacefully in hospital on the 31st March 1999 Roger Oldrid aged 90 years of Morcombe, Bedfordshire. Funeral Mass to be held at Bridport Roman Catholic Church on Friday April 16th at 10.00 am. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for C.A.F.O.D. are being accepted c/o A G Owen F/D, 85 South Street, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3NN. Tel: 01308 422642.

MAILEY - Margaret (Rita). On the eve of her 80th birthday, in London. Widow of W. E. (Bill). Much loved mother, mother-in-law and grandmother. Great-grandmother



# SID GREEN

The general opinion, says the report, was that the standard of vegetable cooking was very low and that it could and should be improved upon. Boiled potatoes, whether served whole or mashed, were generally wet and unappealing looking, and green vegetables were too often accompanied by much of the water in which they had been boiled.







## Fantasy League

Check your scores

Page 31

## Reasons to be cheerful

Putting a smile back on the face of British tennis

Page 27

## Win bonus

Also ran speeds his way to £7 million prize

Page 30

## APTS



KEANU REEVES  
back in sci-fi  
action Page 32

# TIMES SPORT

TUESDAY APRIL 6 1999

## Everton's escape route cut off by Carbone

THEY have been playing with fire for so long that Everton must fear that their fingers will get burnt eventually. After 45 consecutive seasons of top-flight football, this could be the year that they go down in flames.

Everton's fourth successive defeat yesterday, greeted by loud and thoroughly deserved derision by their supporters, plunged them into the bottom three of the FA Carling Premiership. On Saturday, they had battled hard if unavailingly against Liverpool: the chances are that the only Merseyside derby next season will be between these sickly Toffees and Tranmere Rovers.

After a tolerably proficient first-half performance, in which Francis Jeffers's twelfth-minute strike represented something of a Goodison Park goal feast, Everton's subsequent decline bore all the hallmarks of a team destined for relegation.

Sheffield Wednesday took control and eventually took all three points, too, courtesy of a couple of defensive howlers that would not have been out of place over at Stanley Park in a Sunday morning pub game. Victory ended their own

Coventry battle on ..... 25  
Stuart strikes ..... 25  
Results and tables ..... 24

run of five consecutive defeats and means that they are probably one more win from safety.

But for Everton, the prospects are grim. Four times in the past six seasons, they have flamed with danger and when they trooped, crestfallen, off the pitch to find that Graham Stuart, one of their former players, had scored the goal that gave Charlton Athletic victory away to West Ham United and condemned Walter Smith's team to eighteenth position, that dalliance had developed into a full-blown affair.

Everton can still save themselves. Of their six remaining matches, two are at home against their fellow strugglers, Coventry City and Charlton, but the doomsday scenario shared by increasingly distraught supporters has Everton playing Southampton at The Dell on the last Sunday of the season needing to win to survive. Last season, they stayed up on goal difference: this time, that may prove beyond them.

For Smith, after a decade of trophy-hunting with Rangers, this is a new and unpleasant experience. "It was a disappointing result, but even more so when you consider the manner in which we lost it," he said. "We handed Wednesday the game."

Wednesday's equaliser, in the 52nd minute, was a gift



by Keith Pike

pure and simple; their winner 16 minutes later came with ribbons and bows attached. The guilty men on both occasions were Marco Materazzi and David Unsworth, defenders with a combined transfer fee approaching £6 million. They held their heads in collective shame — and were entitled to for the first goal.

Materazzi's initial half-hearted clearance was fraught with danger and Unsworth compounded the error with an extravagant miskick that presented Benito Carbone with a clear shooting opportunity. The Italian seized on the opening, sending a low, right-foot drive beyond Myhre's right hand and inside the far post.

The roles were reversed for the second goal. Unsworth failed with a routine header, Materazzi made a pig's ear of his attempted back-pass and Carbone stole in grateful and unguarded again.

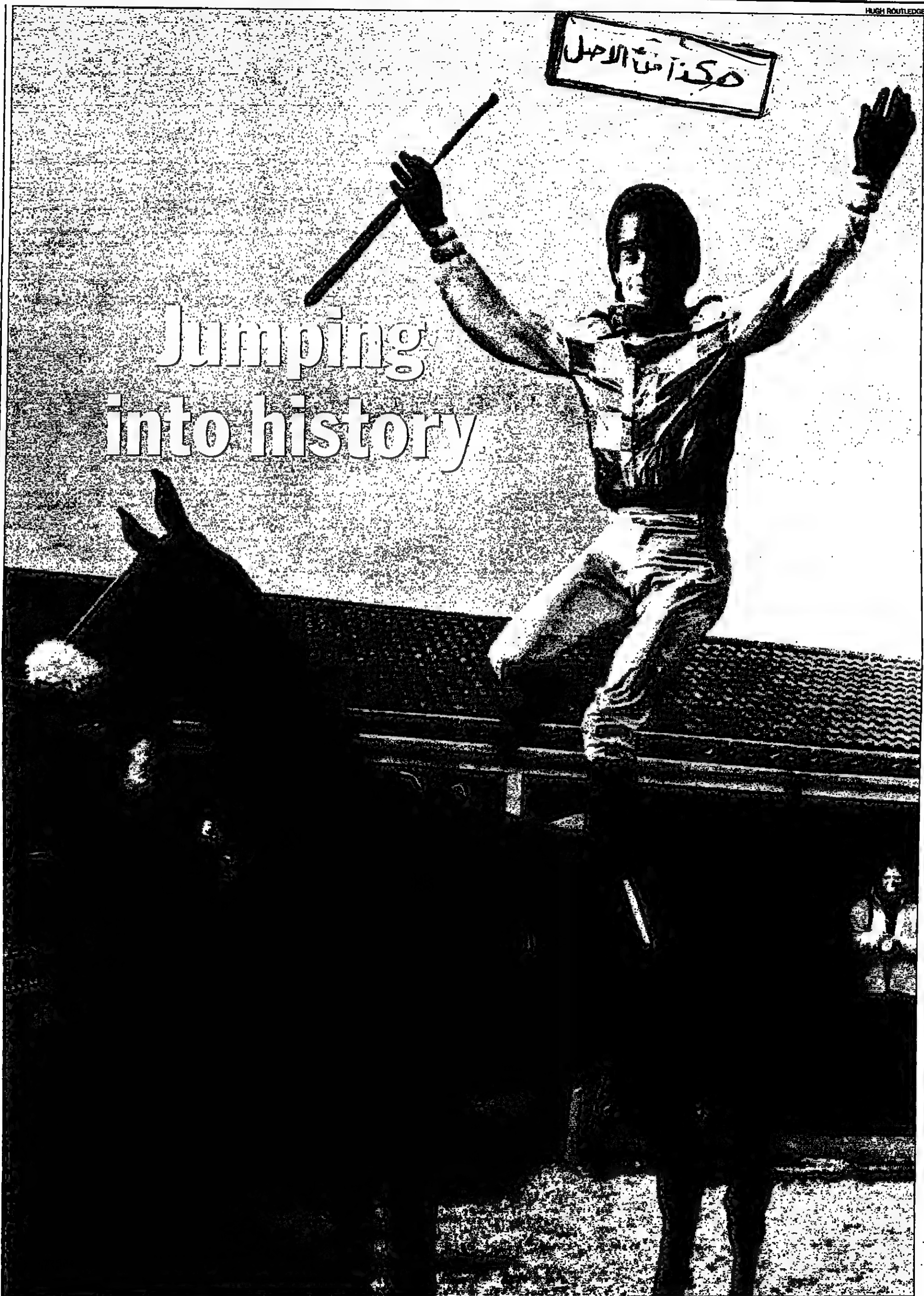
There was no way back for Everton, who withdrew Materazzi, switched to three at the back and flooded midfield. But their heart as well as their composure had gone and Wednesday coasted through the closing stages with ease.

The first half had been so much more promising. With Campbell a prominent spearhead and Gemmill delivering a series of precise passes, the two newcomers had caught the eye on their home debuts alongside Daoud in midfield. Everton fully deserved the lead given them by Jeffers, 18, who lobbed the ball calmly into an empty net from 18 yards when Campbell's aerial challenge on Srinick dislodged the ball from the Wednesday goalkeeper's grasp. It was only Everton's tenth goal in 24 hours of football at Goodison this season.

"We were desperate to win today and in the end I think we deserved it," Danny Wilson, the Wednesday manager, said. "We can't relax just yet, but this has made it a lot easier for us." For Everton and Smith, the agony is destined to continue for some time.

EVERTOWN (4-4-2) T. Myhre — D. West, C. Stuart, M. Materazzi (sub: P. Dagny, 74 min), D. Unsworth — S. Gemmill, A. Grant (sub: M. Ball, 74), O. Daoud, N. Bentley (sub: I. Bakajovic, 70) — F. Jeffers, K. Campbell. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2) P. Srinick — P. Atherton, E. Thorne, J. Newsome, A. Hinckley — N. Alexander-Denison (sub: P. Scott, 70), D. Spiller, W. Jinks, P. Flatt — A. Booth, B. Carbone (sub: R. Crosswell, 80). Referee: M. Reed

## Jumping into history



High flyer: Richard Dunwoody leaps from Yorkshire Edition after breaking the record for career victories. Report, page 29

By the time you finish this sentence,  
35 new people will have joined the Internet.

No wonder he demands his  
service provider displays this logo.



This month, 18 million people will go online for the first time. Next month? Probably more. The impact on your business will be huge. And your service provider will play a vital role in your success. But how do you choose the right one?

Fortunately, the answer is simple. Look for service providers who display the Cisco Powered Network logo. It means they employ Cisco

technology, the same technology that carries virtually all of today's Internet traffic. They can help whether you need Internet access, ATM, Frame Relay, voice or any other network services.

Find out more about Cisco Systems and accredited service providers by visiting [www.cisco-powered.net](http://www.cisco-powered.net)





## Daley rubs salt into grievous wound

Birmingham City ..... 1  
Watford ..... 2

BY CHRIS MOORE

GOALS from two former Aston Villa players make Birmingham City's first home defeat for five months all the less palatable yesterday as Watford enhanced their own prospects of making the Nationwide League first division play-offs.

On a day when Trevor Francis, the Birmingham manager, was tactically outmanoeuvred by Graham Taylor, the former England manager's decision to recall Tony Daley and Tommy Mooney, who began their careers across the city at Villa Park, proved to be a masterstroke and helped to produce a victory that leaves Watford only four points off a place among the top six.

Taylor has enjoyed six promotion-winning campaigns during his career, including hauling Watford up from the second division as champions last season, and, on this evidence, they cannot be underestimated during the run-in.

"We've still got it all to do, but if we keep winning, who knows what might happen for us," Taylor said.

"When you get to this stage of the season, the teams in the play-off positions can start to get a bit edgy. Right now, being in a chasing position might suit us better than having to be looking over our shoulder. We've got a massive game coming up next against Bolton at home on Saturday and, if we beat them, we'll be only one point behind and back in business."

Birmingham had been beaten in only one of their previous 17 games, but without Dele Adebola and Paul Furlong, their injured heavyweights, lacked the physical presence to strengthen their challenge for an automatic promotion position.

Daley, who has been playing for his "digs" money for most of the season, came up trumps in only his sixth start for the club by laying on the opening goal in the 26th minute, the non-stop Mooney heading home his deep cross at the far post.

Mooney repaid the compliment in the 55th minute, providing an inch-perfect cross for Daley to score with a rare header. David Holdsworth cut the deficit with a close-range header in the 87th minute, but it was too little, too late.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-2-3):** K. Poole — J. Bass (sub), N. Foster (61m), D. Holdsworth, M. Johnson, S. Charlton (sub), J. McCann (81), B. Hughes, G. Hyde, M. O'Connor, M. G. Morgan (sub), L. Bradley (sub), H. Fothergill (sub), P. Hedges.

**WATFORD (4-3-3):** A. Chamberlain — D. Bentley, S. Palmer, R. Page, P. Robinson — A. Hanson (sub), M. Hyde, M. Johnson, P. Kennedy — A. Daley (sub), A. Borrell (78), T. Mooney, A. Street.

Referee: J. Kirby

## Bradford can thank Windass

DEAN WINDASS was on target as Bradford City kept up the pressure on Ipswich Town in the fight for an automatic promotion place from the Nationwide League first division with a 2-0 victory at Gigg Lane (M. Webb writes).

Windass, signed from Oxford United, scored both Bradford's goals in a scrappy, untidy game that extended Bury's dismal run to a club record-equaling 19 games without a victory.

Beagrie and Sharpe, the Bradford wingers, tormented the Bury defence and Beagrie made the first goal in the 28th minute with a cross that Windass headed in at the near post. Beagrie exchanged short passes with Jacobs from a corner two minutes before half-time and Windass again headed home at the near post.

In the second division, Gillingham moved up to fifth place as goals from Ashley and Asaba accounted for Wycombe Wanderers at Adams Park, but Stoke City lost more ground in the contest for a play-off place in a dull 1-1 draw away to Chesterfield, whereas Wigan Athletic kept their challenge alive by beating Oldham Athletic 2-0 at Springfield Park.

Cardiff City, leaders of the third division, were given an early shock when Aldeide gave Hull City the lead at Ninian Park, but Nugent equalised with a penalty 16 minutes from time.

Brentford strengthened their grip on the third automatic promotion place with a 3-1 win over Plymouth Argyle. Goals from Evans and Mahon put them ahead, but Marshall pulled one back before Bolton scored a third near the end.

# Nationwide League: Carlisle United lose ground in battle for survival

## Tate delights Scarborough gallery

Scarborough ..... 3  
Carlisle United ..... 0

BY MARTIN WOODS

FRANK MALONEY, the manager of Lennox Lewis, was watching this game alongside Paul Ingle, his heavyweight prospect from Scarborough, who challenges Naseem Hamed for the world title on Saturday. Such was the controversial first-half performance of Roger Fumandiz, the referee, that Maloney could have been forgiven for thinking he was back at Madison Square Gardens.

Fumandiz managed to upset both sets of supporters during a frantic opening half-hour by denying the visitors a penalty and failing to dismiss David Bass, of Carlisle United, for a foul on the Jones, the Scarborough forward, in the penalty area.

Unlike the Lewis v Evander Holyfield contest in New York, however, the home supporters were not embarrassed by the result and were grateful that Chris Tate, the Scarborough forward, was able to deliver the knockout blows with three well-taken goals. The margin of victory flattered the home team, but such quibbles fail to impress teams fighting for their future in the Nationwide League.

Carlisle, who moved off bottom place in the third division after their 1-1 draw with Hull City on Saturday, were four points behind Carlisle with two games in hand before this game, but, in front of their biggest crowd of the season, home advantage com-



Hayland, right, of Scarborough, challenges strongly against Brightwell, of Carlisle at the McCain Stadium yesterday

ounded their nervousness and the visitors had the upper hand before conceding a sloppy goal to after 32 minutes.

A ball played in from the left wing confused three Carlisle defenders, allowing Tate to

turn and fire home. Carlisle could have equalised six minutes later, when Bagshaw found Tracey unmarked in the penalty area, but he shot straight at Tony Parks, the Scarborough goalkeeper, from six yards.

Carlisle continued to press for the equaliser and, just before half-time, a header from Hopper went narrowly past the post.

Richard Knight, the Carlisle goalkeeper, kept his side in the game straight after the break

with a superb save from Roberts and two minutes later the same another good save after being put clear by Atkinson.

Carlisle were unable to muster an attack of their own as Scarborough continued to press forward and two further goals from Tate after 61 and 62 minutes settled the game. A superb cross from the left wing by Roberts found Tate, who headed powerfully past Knight, then Roberts set up the forward again to shoot home from the edge of the penalty area.

I can't put a price on that victory — the boys were magnificent," Colin Addison, the Scarborough manager, said. "There were a few words said at half-time and the boys came out and did me proud. We deserved the three points."

Tate, who is on contract until the end of the season, said: "It was a battle. We didn't play our best football, but Tony Parks played brilliantly."

Scarborough are beginning to relish their fight for survival. Carlisle had better start learning soon.

**SCARBOROUGH (4-4-2):** T. Parks — G. Can, S. Harrison (sub), B. Worrall (49m), J. Hayland, G. Atkinson — N. Jones, G. Porter, P. Atkinson, S. McAlister, C. Tate (sub), A. Fowler (86), D. Hopper (sub), L. Robinson (75).

**CARLISLE UNITED (4-4-2):** R. Knight — R. Bowman, D. Brightwell, P. Clark (sub), G. McAlister, G. D. Smith — R. Prokes, S. Cunningham, D. Hopper (sub), G. Anthony (78), R. Tracey — P. Bagshaw, D. Bass.

Referee: R. Fumandiz

## Preston keeps Manchester threat at bay

Preston North End ..... 1  
Manchester City ..... 1

BY STEPHEN WOOD

THERE is no question which side would have treasured this stalemate more yesterday. Preston North End and Manchester City fought each other to a standstill and the shared points ensured that Preston were able to keep City's challenge at the top of the Nationwide League second division at arm's length.

Both clubs entered the contest with contrasting form, so much so that City, with four consecutive victories, were beginning to dream of supplanting Preston as favourites for automatic promotion. Indeed, the implications of defeat were serious enough for the blood and thunder of this Lancashire derby to override the obligation for stylish football.

As the crowd of 20,857 — Preston's biggest at Deepdale in 25 years — roared their men on, so the players got caught up in a whirlwind that, alas,

aged only sporadically in each penalty box. That did not ruin the spectacle altogether, however. The ferocity that characterised the midfield tussles was compelling — and it nearly got the better of Sean Grogan. Moments before half-time, the Preston captain appeared to elbow Michael Brown after Brown had committed a foul. Kevin Lynch, the referee, declined to take any action.

City had begun with a whimper, leaving Steve Basham, the Preston striker, on loan from Southampton, unmarked, and to head past Weaver, the City goalkeeper. Just 58sec had passed on the clock.

The City equaliser, after 22 minutes, owed something to luck. The ball broke outside the area to Brown, whose low shot was deflected in.

There were few further clear-cut chances, so both managers gambled on their reserves. Mark Robins, the former Manchester United striker, came on for his City debut, but he looked woefully

unfit. For Preston, Jonathan Macken, another with United connections, looked more promising.

David Moyes, the Preston manager, said: "City are a big, physical side and we had to match them. We did that and I think we'll settle for a point."

**PRESTON NORTH END (4-4-2):** D. Lucas — G. Alexander, M. Jackson, C. Murdoch, N. Curran — P. McKenna, M. Raftery (sub), M. Appleton (74m), S. Grogan, D. Eynon — K. Nogan (sub), J. Macken (66), S. Basham.

**MANCHESTER CITY (4-4-2):** N. Weaver — L. Crooks, A. Morrison, J. Vaughan, R. Edgell — T. Cooke, J. Pollock (sub), J. Bebb (64), M. Brown, K. Horrocks — S. Gossler, G. Taylor (sub), M. Robins (57).

Referee: K. Lynch

goal of the season. Gerry Francis, the Rangers manager, promptly made two substitutions, but nine minutes later, Ipswich killed off the contest when Matt Holland struck their third with an angled 20-yard drive from the left of the penalty area.

George Kulkars was cautioned for a clumsy tackle on Mick Stockwell and Kiwomya's eventual return to East Anglia concluded with his being shown a yellow card for a late tackle on Holland in the final minute.

**IPSWICH TOWN (3-5-2):** R. Wright — J. Curran, A. McManis, M. Vassell (sub), M. Wicks, M. Stockwell, J. Magilton, M. Holland, J. Crompton — J. S. Scowron (sub), R. Naylor (86m), D. Johnson (sub), M. Hopper (88).

**QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS (3-5-2):** L. Millar — T. Breen, D. Meddie, S. Morrow (sub), D. Dowds (88), K. Ruddy (sub), A. Loughlin, Z. Barracott — G. Kulkars, G. Prescott, P. Murray — L. Jeanne, C. Kiwomya.

Referee: W. Burns

## Osborn keeps Wolves in pack Ipswich show touch of steel

Sheffield United ..... 1  
Wolverhampton Wanderers ..... 1

BY A CORRESPONDENT

THE destiny of Wolverhampton Wanderers — and what partisan supporters believe to be their rightful place in the FA Carling Premiership — remains firmly in their hands after a dramatic finale at Bramall Lane. The future of Colin Lee, their manager, is a little less clear, though.

His side has lost just once in 15 games since Boxing Day and, after taking this point from Sheffield United, will surely contest the Nationwide League first division play-offs. Yet, despite this record, the offer of the security provided by a long-term contract still

eludes Lee, whose fate will be decided at the end of the season.

A 62nd-minute goal from Marcelo, the Brazilian striker, proved to be a false inspiration for Sheffield United's hopes. Marcelo was left with a tap-in from six yards after a run and cross by Lee Morris, the teenage midfielder player.

Devlin should have added a second shortly afterwards, but his first touch, like many in the match, lacked composure and the chance was lost.

Wolves secured the point for which they had striven when Cortez, a substitute, was fouled by Tabily on the edge of the penalty area with just five minutes remaining. After much debate and construction of the wall,

Simon Osborn curled the free kick over it and beyond Alan Kelly, the Sheffield goalkeeper. Earlier, Kelly had made a fine save when Connolly and Robinson combined to put the latter through.

Robert Styles, the referee, booked seven players, five for Sheffield, in a game that lacked genuine passion. In the 86th minute, Rob Kozluk, the Sheffield full back, was sent off for a second bookable offence after he pushed Gilles.

**SHEFFIELD UNITED (4-4-2):** A. Kelly — R. Kozluk, J. Hunt, C. Woodhouse (sub), J. Connolly (88m), L. Morris (sub), B. Barry (88), S. Osborn, S. Sedgley — M. Ho, D. Connolly (sub), S. Cortez (85).

Referee: R. Styles

Ipswich Town ..... 3  
Queens Park Rangers ..... 1

BY GORDON HOWARD

AFTER successive disappointments in the play-offs in recent seasons, Ipswich Town confirmed yesterday that they are on course for an automatic return to the FA Carling Premiership with a deserved victory over Queens Park Rangers.

Their performance may not have contained the delights of their six-goal romp at Swindon on Saturday, but it was full of determination and it was their persistence which brought rewards after Rangers had taken an unexpected lead.

Rangers, although always well organised, could have no complaints, even though Ips-

wich did make a sloppy start and conceded a goal after only four minutes. Chris Kiwomya, the former Ipswich player, took advantage of some casual defending to glance a header past the helpless Richard Wright.

If Ipswich needed a wake-up call, to wipe out any complacency, this was it and they soon responded with an equaliser. Jim Magilton's deep cross finding David Johnson, who headed his fifteenth goal of the season.

After their bright start, Rangers appeared content to sit back and suffocate the Ipswich attack and the home side were clearly getting frustrated. Their diligence was rewarded in the 65th minute when James Scowron headed in a cross by Mark Venus for his thirteenth

goal of the season. Gerry Francis, the Rangers manager, promptly made two substitutions, but nine minutes later, Ipswich killed off the contest when Matt Holland struck their third with an angled 20-yard drive from the left of the penalty area.

George Kulkars was cautioned for a clumsy tackle on Mick Stockwell and Kiwomya's eventual return to East Anglia concluded with his being shown a yellow card for a late tackle on Holland in the final minute.

**IPSWICH TOWN (3-5-2):** R. Wright — J. Curran, A. McManis, M. Vassell (sub), M. Wicks, M. Stockwell, J. Magilton, M. Holland, J. Crompton — J. S. Scowron (sub), R. Naylor (86m), D. Johnson (sub), M. Hopper (88).

**QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS (3-5-2):** L. Millar — T. Breen, D. Meddie, S. Morrow (sub), D. Dowds (88), K. Ruddy (sub), A. Loughlin, Z. Barracott — G. Kulkars, G. Prescott, P. Murray — L. Jeanne, C. Kiwomya.

Referee: W. Burns

## YESTERDAY'S RESULTS AND TABLES

FA Carling Premiership

First division

COVENTRY (0) 1 SOUTHAMPTON (0) 0

EVERTON (1) 1 SHEFF WED (0) 2

BOLTON (2) 2 WOLVERHAMPTON (0) 1

WATFORD (4) 3 CARLISLE UNITED (0) 0

NOTT'M (0) 2 LIVERPOOL (1) 2

WOLVERHAMPTON (1) 1 SHEFFIELD UNITED (1) 1

WEST HAM (0) 1 CHELSEA (0) 1

Man. Utd. 31 18 10 3 66 32 64

Arsenal 31 18 12 3 42 33 60

Leeds 31 16 11 9 53 52 59

West Ham 31 16 11 9 53 52 59

Coventry 31 16 11 9 53 52 59

Bolton 31 16 11 9 53 52 59

Liverpool 31 16 11 9 53 52 59

Newcastle 31 16 11 9 53 52 59

Manchester City 31 16 11 9 53 52 59

Tottenham 31 16 11 9 53 52 59

Sheffield Wed. 31 16 11 9 53 52 59

Leicester 31 16 11 9 53 52 59

Charlton 31 16 11 9 53 52 59

Blackburn 31 16 11 9 53 52 59

Everton 31 16 11 9 53 52 59

Southampton 31 16 11 9 53 52 59

Nottingham 31 16 11 9 53 52 59

Nott'm 31 16 11 9 53 52 59

Don't include last night's match

LEAGUE OF WALES: Alton 1, Carmarthen 1

LEAGUE OF WALES: Alton 1, Carmarthen 1

SMITHFIELD IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division

SMITHFIELD IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division

SMITHFIELD IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division

SMITHFIELD IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division

SMITHFIELD IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division

SMITHFIELD IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division

SMITHFIELD IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division

SMITHFIELD IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division

SMITHFIELD IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division

SMITHFIELD IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division

SMITHFIELD IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division

SMITHFIELD IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division

SMITHFIELD IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division

SMITHFIELD IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division

SMITHFIELD IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division

SMITHFIELD IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division

SMITHFIELD IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division

SMITHFIELD IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division

SMITHFIELD IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division

SMITHFIELD IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division

SMITHFIELD IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division

SMITHFIELD IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division

SMITHFIELD IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division

SMITHFIELD IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division

SMITHFIELD IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division

SMITHFIELD IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division

SMITHFIELD IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division

Nationwide League

First division

BIRMINGHAM (0) 1 WATFORD (0) 2

BOLTON (0) 1 STOCKPORT (1) 2

BURY (0) 1 BRADFORD (0) 2

C. PALACE (1) 1 SUNDERLAND (1) 1

GUNTERY (0) 1 SWINDON (1) 1

HULL CITY (0) 1 SHEFFIELD UNITED (1) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1

IPSWICH (0) 1 QPR (0) 1



# FA Carling Premiership: Two strugglers gain welcome victories in fight to stay in top flight

## Relegation skies start to clear over Coventry

LIKE the clock on the scoreboard, which was turning its hands faster than time was passing yesterday — it ran up four hours during the second half — Coventry City have got ahead of themselves. Traditionally, if it is April, the clouds of relegation should be hovering over Highfield Road, but they are being dispersed unusually early. Blue skies are accompanying the Sky Blues into the last six weeks of the season.

A 68th-minute goal by George Boateng settled this tense and sometimes scrappy FA Carling Premiership match against a team that now appears to have one foot in the Nationwide League. If there was to be a goal, it was fair, on the balance of chances, that it should be scored by Coventry.

### Fantasy Football updates...31

entry. A right-wing cross from Gary Breen found Trond Solvødt unmarked and the Norwegian's header forced a fine save out of Neil Moss, the Southampton reserve goalkeeper, who was standing in for the injured Paul Jones. Boateng, though, was first to the loose ball.

Coventry thus took their thirteenth point from their past six games to move four places clear of the relegation zone. Not that Gordon Strachan, the Coventry manager, is making assumptions about being back for another Premiership season come August. "Safe now, Gordon?" he was asked. "Have you ever been to Coventry?" his inquisitor was asked. Victory here would have taken Southampton out of the bottom three for the first time



by David Powell

this season and, with hindsight, David Jones, their manager, probably wishes he had played Matthew Le Tissier from the start, rather than from the beginning of the second half. The Coventry goal had one narrow escape in the first half, a shot from James Beattie being deflected for a corner, but not until Le Tissier came on did the danger light change from amber to red.

Le Tissier replaced Wayne Bridge wide on the left and, within three minutes of appearing, produced a telling cross from which Beattie directed a header low to Magnus Hedman's right. The Coventry goalkeeper responded with an athletic, one-handed save. Twice in three minutes in the final quarter, as Southampton searched for an equaliser, Le Tissier tested the nerves of the Coventry faithful.

From a cross by Hassan Kachoul, Le Tissier headed over. Then Hedman went down smartly to his left to keep out a volley from the Southampton man. Asked why Le Tissier, returning from suspension, had not played the 90 minutes, Jones said: "Because the lads who played on Saturday performed well and I lost Ripley and Os-



Sitting target: Boateng takes a relaxed view after scoring the winning goal for Coventry City at Highfield Road

tenstad, so it was a case of not making too many changes."

Perhaps Jones had forgotten that it was Le Tissier who had made the difference in the 2-1 home victory over Coventry back in October. On that occasion, he made one and scored one.

The Bank Holiday weekend served only to underline the contrast in Southampton's form at home and away. They drew with Arsenal at The Dell on Saturday, but yesterday suffered their twelfth defeat in 16 Premiership away fixtures. "I'll put my finger on the

reason why, I would have done so a long time ago," Jones said.

He blamed a combination of his players, for "switching off" at certain times, and Uriah Rennie, the referee. "He makes up his own rules as he goes along," Jones said. "He has given out bookings and silly free kicks." Though critical of his team's lackadaisical approach to the first half, Jones added: "In the second half, we had a go."

Coventry were also vexed by Rennie, but at least their supporters had their moment of

fun. After booking Boateng for kicking the ball away, the third Coventry player to have his name taken, Rennie dropped his collection of cards on the pitch.

For Coventry, Solvødt came in for the injured Steve Froggatt and Strachan felt that he had a "fantastic" game. Breen, on the other hand, had the kind of match to forget. He had a header cleared off the line by David Hughes, fired one over and, presented by Darren Huckerby with a perfect cross to his feet, put his shot wide.

The lion's share of chances fell to Coventry. Boateng missed the target, with Moss beaten, after Ken Monkou's half-clearance. Monkou had to be rescued by Moss when his back-header angled towards goal and the goalkeeper also saved well from a firm drive by Noel Whelan.

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): M Hedman — G Breen, P Williams, R Shaw, D Burnard — G Boateng, G Monkou, T Solvødt, P Taylor — N Whelan, D Huckerby (sub: S Bloesch, 67 min).

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): N Moss — J Dodd, K Monkou, C Lundekvam, P Collier — S Hiley, D Hughes, C Marsden, W Bridge (sub: M Le Tissier, 49) — J Beattie (sub: M Parnis, 70), M Hughes (sub: H Kachoul, 77). Referee: U Rennie

## Stuart gives Charlton lift towards security

GRAHAM STUART knows all about scoring important goals. His late strike against Wimbledon at Goodison Park on the last day of the 1993-94 season kept Everton in the top flight. If his 75th-minute winner at Upton Park yesterday proves to have helped do the same for Charlton Athletic, the £1 million that they paid Sheffield United for him just before the transfer deadline could prove one of the best investments of recent seasons.

In truth, Stuart owed his new employers a goal. In a game of squandered chances, he had been guilty of the biggest howler, powder-puffing Mark Bowen's low cross into the hands of Shaka Hislop in the 43rd minute with the goal at his mercy.

By then, Charlton had lost John Robinson, carried off with a leg injury, and were to see Sasa Illic, their goalkeeper, taken away on a stretcher with head and knee injuries after a collision with Marc Keller. The West Ham man had followed a high parry by Illic of a shot by Frank Lampard into the net. Charlton's relief when Steve Dunn, the referee, spotted an upraised flag was short-lived as the extent of Illic's difficulties became clear.

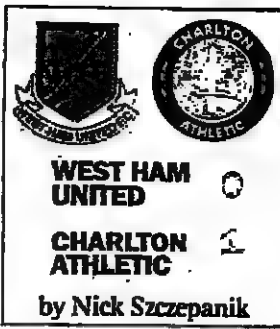
Both Charlton players were taken to hospital for X-rays, but neither is thought to have suffered lasting damage. Apart from a wobble from Peterson, the replacement goalkeeper, soon after half-time, when Pearce headed past him only for Danny Mills to clear the danger, Charlton did not seem to be adversely affected by the departures and continued to attack. Martin Pringle, Bowen and Andy Hunt all forcing excellent saves from Hislop.

However, it was anything but one-way traffic. West Ham, although missing the creativity of Eyal Berkovic until his late appearance as a substitute, nevertheless threatened whenever Paolo Di Canio was given time to play a selection of exquisitely weighted passes; unfortunately, Paul Kitson, who seemed to be on the end of most of these moves, was having an off-day.

Just when it seemed that logic would be defied and a ridiculously open game would finish goalless, Rufus headed on a free kick by Mills, Minto and Hislop hesitated and Stuart, on his second appearance for the club, nipped in behind them to head into the empty net.

"We never felt it was going to come," Alan Curbishley, the Charlton manager, said. "He [Stuart] had missed a glorious chance and was very upset with himself at half-time."

An alleged post-match altercation in the tunnel involving Neil Ruddock and Carl Tiler could feature in the referee's report, but of more interest was the performance of John Barnes, who would probably



by Nick Szczepanik

not have played his first full 90 minutes for Charlton (nearer 100, as it turned out) if two substitutes had not been used before half-time. He finished limping, but had shown rare composure before the legs finally gave up.

Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, who has seen Charlton beat his team twice this season, said: "They gave it a go. I've said from day one that they wouldn't go down."

Charlton's win, their first in five games, took them up three places to sixteenth, two positions above the relegation zone, but they have a tough programme to come, including visits from Leeds United and Tottenham Hotspur, and



Stuart: vital goal

fixtures against Everton and Blackburn, teams also threatened by relegation, so Curbishley is not getting carried away.

"There's a long way to go for us," he said. "I felt on Saturday against Chelsea it was a bit passionless for a local derby and we gave them too much respect. Today was a gutsy, full-of-pride performance."

Part of Curbishley's plan to rouse those dormant emotions involved a pre-match meeting at The Valley, where he asked his players if they wanted to continue playing in front of the full houses they have drawn to what is now an impressive stadium. They will continue to do so only if they stay in the FA Carling Premiership and yesterday they took a big step towards achieving that objective.

WEST HAM UNITED (4-4-2): S Hislop — S Lomas, J Pearce, N Ruddock, S Minto — J Smith, F Lampard, M V Fox, M Keller — P Gibson (sub: E Berkovic, 70 min), P Di Canio (sub: A Curbishley, 45 min). Referee: S Dunn.

## Dire Liverpool sink to new depths at Forest



Owen: 22nd goal this season was not enough for victory

LIVERPOOL and Europe go hand in hand, a marriage not of convenience but of necessity. So frequently have they enriched the three continental competitions down the years, so many memorable matches. Only three times in the past 35 seasons have Liverpool failed to qualify for Europe.

Make that four in 36. Liverpool will not grace the Nou Camp or San Siro next season unless UEFA, the sports European governing body, changes its mind and allows the fifth-placed club in the FA Carling Premiership to sneak in via the back door. It is the most that Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, and his pampered players can hope for.

Statistically, they are not good enough. They have long been removed from contention in the domestic cups and are

destined to finish well behind Manchester United and Arsenal. No greater was their collective ineffectiveness, their paucity of ideas, illustrated than in the shabby draw against Nottingham Forest at the City ground yesterday.

It is mentally, though — perhaps even morally — where Liverpool have been dragged into the depths. Wearing the red shirt with pride now appears to be posed: inspiration and motivation has disappeared under a welter of inflated pay packets and egos.

Robbie Fowler, the England striker, has done more than most to bring disrepute on himself, his team-mates and all those who live and breathe Anfield. First, during the game against Chelsea in February, he questioned the sexuality of Graeme Le Saux; then,



by Russell Kempson

during the game against Everton on Saturday, he mimicked the actions of a drug-taker as he celebrated a goal. When a Football Association commission meets on Friday to decide what action to take on the first offence, they should perhaps consider the second, too.

Houllier, a decent man, stands amid the mess — on the

one hand defending his troops, as all good generals do; on the other, trying to do what is right, something that will bring some sanity back to an increasingly perplexing situation.

Liverpool are holding a board meeting today, during which it is likely that Fowler's latest escapade will be discussed. Fowler played lethargically and was replaced in the 79th minute. He was not alone. Apart from Redknapp in midfield, most of the Liverpool side appeared ready for the end of the season.

Forest are doomed to return to the Nationwide League first division and, had Liverpool deigned to shake a leg, would have had their fate hastened. Redknapp enlivened a dreadful first half with a glorious 25-yard drive after Ince

## Bergkamp returns to aid Arsenal in title pursuit

By Mel Webb

ARSENAL and Blackburn Rovers may be driven by opposite ambitions as the FA Carling Premiership season approaches its dénouement, but the objective for each side will be similar when they meet at Highbury tonight.

Theoretically, this should be the time of year when the gulf between those contending for championships and others toiling to avoid relegation should be seen most vividly — but it ain't necessarily so.

For example, Blackburn go to North London bolstered by a record that has seen them undefeated at Highbury for the past five years. The past should have no relevance as to what might happen in the present, but footballers are superstitious folk and, after all, Blackburn need every small advantage that they can lay their hands on.

Arsenal are in the fortunate position of not usually needing anything as ephemeral as mere luck — who needs luck when you have a first team squad like theirs? Even so, they will be hoping that the gulf between them and their opponents will be widened by the return to their ranks of the talismanic Dennis Bergkamp. He missed Arsenal's disappointing goalless draw against Southampton on Saturday but is expected to have

recovered from a stomach virus sufficiently to take his place in Arsenal's starting line-up.

Arsenal's need for points is no less urgent than Blackburn's. Three points against Brian Kidd's team of high-investment strugglers will keep them in touch with Manchester United — none would almost certainly mean that they can forget such exotica as League and Cup doubles for another year.

Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, knows that the apparent gulf between his side and Kidd's will be narrowed when the action gets underway. "It's a very important game for us to win, but every game at home will be crucial between now and the end of the season," he said.

"We have the determination and desire to do it, but we know that Blackburn will fight hard. Manchester United, Chelsea and Leeds will all come against the same problem before the race is over."

Wenger has a few injury problems. Martin Keown was to go off with an ankle strain at The Dell and Marc Overmars has been suffering from infected blisters on his feet. Both, plus Bergkamp, were back in training yesterday,

but Emanuel Petit is still suspended and Renni Garde and Stephen Hughes, possible replacements for the Frenchman, are still recovering from injuries.

If Bergkamp plays, he could find himself being marked by Lee Carsley, a recent £3.3 million signing from Derby County. The rugged midfielder player has had an ankle injury, but might make his first full appearance after coming off the substitutes' bench against Middlesbrough on Saturday.

Leicester City go into their match against Aston Villa at Filbert Street tonight with Martin O'Neill, their manager, insisting that his side still has a chance of winning a place in Europe.

Leicester are thirteenth in the table, but O'Neill believes that victory against Villa will keep them firmly in the hunt for a place in the UEFA Cup. O'Neill's main injuries are centred upon Muzzy Izzet, who has a pulled hamstring, Steve Walsh, who has an ankle injury, and Gerry Taggart, who is recovering from flu.

## Ferguson has full squad for Juventus

By Our Sports Staff

THE rapier qualities of Ryan Giggs and the more rumbustious talents of Jaap Stam will both be available to Manchester United when they face Juventus in their European Cup semi-final first leg at Old Trafford tomorrow.

The pair were declared fit by Alex Ferguson, the United manager, after they trained with the rest of the squad yesterday. Both sat out the 1-1 draw at Wimbledon on Saturday, Stam nursing an ankle injury and Giggs suffering from a hamstring complaint. Their return means that Ferguson will have a full-strength squad to choose from.

United are in excellent shape going into their biggest week of the season so far. Ferguson's treble-chasers remain four points clear at the top of the FA Carling Premiership and on Sunday there is the FA Cup semi-final against Arsenal at Villa Park.

Ferguson is confident that his players will once again rise to the challenge. "What helps, of course, is that we've got a good, strong squad. We have not had a long injury list and pray to the Lord and touch wood we hope it remains that way," he said. "The spirit in the camp is great and we're all looking forward to this week."

In particular, Ferguson feels that his side have taken great heart from their quarter-final win over Internazionale. "I think this team is improving and I think beating Inter Milan did help them," he said. "That brought them on a great stride and now it's just a matter of them being able to express themselves and make sure their concentration is good."

While all is sweetness and light in the United camp, all is not well with Juventus. The Serie A side, who have appeared in the past three European Cup finals, have stumbled through to the semi-finals, winning just two of their past eight games.

They are adrift in the race for the Italian championship and although Carlo Ancelotti, the coach, has improved the fortunes of the club during his two months in charge, they lost 1-0 away to Empoli, who are at the bottom of the Serie A table on Saturday.

Ferguson's brother, Martin, watched the game and the Manchester United boss is not reading too much into that result. "It will be a different team altogether on Wednesday," he said. "They had five players out on Saturday and we are preparing for a hard game."

## Wimbledon's weaknesses are exposed by Ricard



by George Caulkin

THEY call it the comfort zone. But Wimbledon were the pained expression of men prodded by a thousand pins. Relative safety is Middlesbrough's preserve and yet they play with a desperate hunger. Entering the Inter-Toto Cup has met with a conflicting response: lunatic alarm and miserable apathy.

The guilty finger-prints of fallibility are everywhere, of course, for both these clubs have harboured fleeting ambitions of qualifying for European competition via a more recognised route. Middlesbrough performed as if the UEFA Cup remained a realistic opportunity; Wimbledon displayed a lifeless dread.

On the evidence of yesterday's equivalent to a friendly fixture, Middlesbrough will be better equipped to dredge the most from the waters of so many wrecked holiday plans. In Keith O'Neill and Hamilton Ricard, a nascent attacking partnership is taking shape and now that the FA Carling Premiership table offers little to fear, a winter's weight has been lifted from their shoulders.

Gripes remain, however. Bryan Robson's reaction when the prospect of a working summer was mentioned was not so much gruff as growled. "I'm not bothered about that," the

if already contemplating a fortnight in Benidorm. Individually, Neil Sullivan appeared to have begun his journey. For both of Ricard's goals, the positional sense of the Scotland goalkeeper was suspect.

The first, after barely 30 seconds, was to effectively decide the result in Middlesbrough's favour. A purposeful kick from Mark Schwarzer was flicked on by Andy Townsend and Ricard hooked his shot above Sullivan's prone form.

Pie-plates and long-balls: the manner of Wimbledon's collapse was ironic. Ricard's chip in the 28th minute, racing on to a forward pass by Colin Cooper, took the Colombia forward's seasonal tally to 17, while there could be little excuse for the freedom that Gianluca Festa enjoyed to stoop and head home Townsend's corner at the far post.

Carl Cort, the Wimbledon substitute, summoned a lusty volley from a cross by Carl Hughes, but it was a token gesture and never amounted to anything approaching a comeback.

MIDDLESBROUGH (3-5-2): M Schwarzer — C Cooper, G Parker, G Fieles — R Stockdale (sub: S Vickers, 84 min), R Mutton, P Gibson, A Townsend, D Gashy — H Ricard, K O'Neill (sub: N Middleton, 54).

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan — N Andley (sub: M Hughes, 88), C Perry, D Blackwell, S Thatcher — G Anson (sub: A Roberts, 49), J Ewell, R Eadie, C Hughes — J Harrison (sub: C Cort, 66), M Gayle. Referee: P Durkin



## Sullivan's hat-trick dismisses Bradford

St Helens ..... 58  
Bradford Bulls ..... 14

By Peter Wilson

A HAT-TRICK of tries from Anthony Sullivan, and 20 points from Tommy Murray, at stand-off half, confirmed St Helens's place at the top of the JJB Super League. Bradford Bulls, forced to make five changes as a result of their bruising win over Leeds on Thursday, were completely overrun in the second half.

"This was our third match in eight days and that was significant," Matthew Elliott, the Bradford coach, said. "They were magnificent in the second half and we could not compete."

Things had started brightly for Bradford, who went ahead with a try by Bernard Dwyer in the fifth minute, and the early exchanges offered little hint of the points landslide that was to follow. Two goals by Murray brought St Helens first points, but the Bradford defence held firm until the 24th minute, when Ferezi Tulaia scored his first try for St Helens. Then two tries in a four-minute spell shortly before half-time signalled St Helens's growing domination — Sullivan's first in the 34th minute was followed by another by Scunthorpe, the St Helens captain.

Tiredness took over in the second half for Bradford as first Tony Stewart and then Martin added tries to the mounting St Helens total. It was not until the game was well and truly lost that Neil Harrison crossed for Bradford's consolation second try.

There was no time to enjoy that before Tom Jonkers, a 17-year-old schoolboy, added his name to the St Helens list of try-scorers. Sullivan completed his hat-trick with a spectacular 70-yard solo run and then went over after a pass from Long shortly before the end.

SCORERS: St Helens: Tries: Sullivan (3), Stewart (2), Tulaia, Murray (2), Harrison, Jonkers, Elliott, Murray (11), Bradford: Tries: Dwyer, Murray, Gellie, Delany (4), ST HELENS: P. Arneson, F. Tulaia, A. Sullivan, K. I. O. Sullivan, T. Murray, S. Long, J. O'Leary, K. Cunningham, P. Davidson, A. P. In, S. Hinch, P. Scunthorpe, Substitutes: C. Smith, T. Jonkers, M. Edmondson, P. Williams.

Bradford Bulls: P. Williams, N. McAvoy, S. Naylor, D. Pearson, N. Zaki, R. Pate, P. Deane, B. McDermott, L. Lewis, S. Pickett, L. Redford, B. Dwyer, M. Forshaw, Substitutes: S. McNamara, N. Harrison, W. Jones, H. Paul, R. Smith (Cardiff).

RUGBY LEAGUE: LONDON GIVEN A STERN WARNING IN ONE-SIDED DRESS-REHEARSAL FOR CHALLENGE CUP FINAL

## Rhinos display resilient quality

Leeds Rhinos ..... 38  
London Broncos ..... 12

By Christopher Irvine

THERE was an element of shadow-boxing at Headingley yesterday about the dress-rehearsal for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final next month. No matter that Leeds Rhinos remembered their lines and blew away their Wembley opponents, this was a disappointing affair in the JJB Super League.

As Graham Murray, the Leeds coach, observed afterwards: "Two games in five days, that's the problem. Last Thursday against Bradford was a quality game, but you can't back up the Monday after."

Nor was Murray referring solely to the lack of quality on view. Clearly angry, he said that the imposition this season of a 30-match league programme and the re-introduction of midweek fixtures means that players are more likely to suffer injuries on the field.

At least Murray can draw some consolation that it is the same for everybody. For example, it is London's misfortune to have to meet St Helens, the league leaders, on Friday, but as Dan Stains, their coach, said: "The programme was in front of us from the start and it's up to everyone to adapt."

With both sides playing for a third time in less than ten days, intensity was an inevitable casualty and the encounter was an



Cummins scores one of the tries that gave Leeds a convincing win over London in their cup final rehearsal yesterday

unreliable guide to the cup final on May 1. With six players missing, London were left to count the cost of further injuries to Salter, Retchless and Air, the scrum half replacement for Shaun Edwards, who suffered a nasty cut near his eye. Stains confirmed that Ed-

wards had broken his thumb and doctors had advised that he would be out for between eight and ten weeks. After they led 13-10 at half-time, the Broncos' 100 per cent record in the league and cup this season was overwhelming ended. They sustained 32

points without replay, as Leeds recovered from a painfully slow beginning. Some of Rhinos' tackling early on was apologetic, as Millard crashed in beneath the posts and Air then ran round the back of the scrum and released Hammond, but wherever festyn

Harris was, trouble for London was never far away. The stand-off half was the architect of both the Rhinos' tries before half-time, the first when he spun through 360 degrees and got his pass out to Lawford. The timing of his pass to set in motion the 100th career try

by Cummins on the left wing also triggered an upping in the Leeds tempo, which a desperately tired London found it impossible to handle. Harris was again the provider of tries, by Farrell and Golden, within eight minutes of the resumption. As the heavier Leeds forwards got to work, McDermott deserved a try, but was called back for a forward pass.

Stains said that while boxers got several months between bouts, days for rugby league

Denis Betts celebrated his return after seven months out with a knee injury by scoring his hundredth try for Wigan Warriors just 58sec into their 52-22 victory over Wakefield Trinity Wildcats at Belle Vue. Wigan led 34-0 before the JJB Super League newcomers staged a revival in the second half.

players were not enough. Tries in the last 15 minutes were there to be scored and Leeds obliged as Rivett scampered clear from half way. Harris stroled over and Lawford added his second.

SCORERS: Leeds Rhinos: Tries: Lawford (2), Cummins, Farrell, Golden, Farrell, Betts, Harris (3), London Broncos: Tries: Millard, Hammond, Goals: Warren (2). LEEDS RHINOS: M. St Helens P. Stirling, M. Golden, B. Golden, F. Cummins, J. Harris, M. Lawford, M. MacLellan, J. Jackson, D. Pacey, A. Morley, A. Farrell, N. Smith, Substitutes: L. Smith, B. McDermott, M. Giddens, J. Millard. LONDON BRONCOS: T. Toole, B. Warren, G. Fleming, J. Tully, M. O'Hall, J. Hammond, G. Air, S. Retchless, D. Calaway, J. Salter, A. Seaton, S. Millard, M. Toshack, Substitutes: C. Ryan, D. Pacey, A. Spencer, S. Hughes. Referee: J. Connolly (Wigan).

## Lloyd's bubble bursts again

Hull Sharks ..... 21  
Sheffield Eagles ..... 23

By A Correspondent

IT WAS *déjà vu* for David Lloyd, the Hull Sharks owner, at The Boulevard yesterday. Just 16 hours after his Davis Cup side had lost to the United States, his JJB Super League team went down to the last kick of a knife-edge encounter with the Sheffield Eagles.

Hull supporters had already begun to celebrate their weakened team's first league win of the season when Karl Lovell out-flanked the Hull defence for an equalising try. It was a difficult enough conversation without the pressure,

but Mark Aston, who had hit the uprights with two of his five previous attempts, was on target to thwart a courageous effort from Hull.

Indeed, apart from the first 20 minutes — when a ragtag Hull, minus nine first-choice players, were still getting to know one another — Sheffield found the going increasingly difficult and were relieved to have established an 8-0 lead with a try from Bright Sodje and two goals from Aston.

It was a 50-metre try by Logan Campbell, converted by Steve Prescott, which finally settled Hull down and, although the full back was lax in letting Sodje steal the touch down, he atoned with a penalty and then added the points

when a superb half-break by Steve Barrow gave Gary Lester a clear run-in.

Lester should have made another try for Craig Murdoch, but he failed to get past Dave Watson and although Graham Hallas powered his way through and both Prescott and Rob Roberts kicked crucial goals, the Thorman-Lovell combination won the day.

SCORERS: Hull Sharks: Tries: Campbell, Lester, Hallas, Goals: Prescott (4). Dropped goals: Roberts. Sheffield Eagles: Tries: Sodje (2), Lovell (2), Goals: Aston (2). Dropped goals: Aston. HULL SHARKS: S. Prescott, R. Nelson, C. Campbell, G. Hallas, J. Smith, G. Lester, C. Murdoch, S. Conner, M. Hall, A. Inland, J. Lovell, K. Smith, R. Roberts, Substitutes: R. Wilson, S. Barrow, A. Jackson, J. Widdell. SHEFFIELD EAGLES: D. Watson, A. Lovell, D. Frost, K. Seaton, S. Sodje, M. Pearson, M. Aston, S. Mole, J. Lawless, D. Lawton, D. Shaw, D. Turner, J. Hardy, Substitutes: M. Jackson, S. Sadwin, R. Wright, C. Thorman. Referee: R. Connolly (Wigan).

## Forster try saves Warrington

Warrington Wolves ..... 23  
Gateshead Thunder ..... 18

By Martin Richards

MARK FORSTER, the veteran Warrington Wolves wing, preserved his side's 100 per cent start to the season with the last thrust of an enthralling finale at Wilderspool. Gateshead Thunder were entertaining hopes of claiming their first significant scalp when Toa Kolo-Loe, the Warrington centre, broke from his 20-metre line. Alan Hunt was in support to send Forster over in the dying seconds.

One had to feel sorry for Gateshead, who were on the

receiving end of a 19-4 penalty count by Steve Nicholson, the referee. When a try for Luke Felsch on 57 minutes, improved by Ian Herron's third goal, put Gateshead 18-8 ahead, Warrington were in deep trouble and few would have put money on their chances of staging a comeback.

However, they picked up the tempo and, three minutes later, John Duffy and Kolo-Loe combined to put Jason Roach over for his second try. It proved to be the turning point.

Lee Briers, the Warrington scrum half, missed the kick, but added a 63rd-minute penalty after Danny Lee, of Gateshead, was sent to the sin-bin.

Briers took control and his high kick found Hunt, who scored with 13 minutes remaining to level the scores. Briers could not add the goal, but he put Warrington in front with a 35-yard drop goal. Gateshead tried everything in a furious late onslaught and had a try disallowed. It was not to be their day.

SCORERS: Warrington Wolves: Tries: Roach (2), Warrington, Hunt, Forster, Roach, Briers, Dropped goals: Briers, Gateshead Thunder: Tries: Duffy, Macken, Felsch, Goals: Herron (2). WARRINGTON WOLVES: J. Perry, J. Roach, A. Hunt, T. Kolo-Loe, M. Forster, J. Duffy, L. Briers, M. Hunt, D. Pacey, D. Muley, S. McDonald, J. Knott, M. Warrington, Substitutes: D. Hanger, G. Chambers, S. Gibbs, D. Briers. GATESHEAD THUNDER: B. Samma, J. Herron, D. Macken, C. Simon, M. Daylight, W. Robinson, W. Pacey, D. Lee, A. Walters, L. Felsch, J. Gault, J. Hinch, Substitutes: C. Wilson, T. Ginnick, S. Collins, R. H. Wood. Referee: S. Nicholson (Whitewell).

## CRICKET

### Hooper fails to deliver on promise yet again

FROM PAT GIBSON IN ANTIGUA

CARL HOOPER, the great enigma of West Indies cricket, let the side down again yesterday. They were looking for something special from him to make sure that Brian Lara's stupendous efforts are rewarded with the Frank Worrell Trophy, but they were bitterly disappointed when more as he threw his wicket away in a moment of aberration.

Hooper had looked determined enough the day before, reviving memories of his match-winning 92 not out against England in Trinidad last year by making a stabilising, unbeaten 40 to take West Indies to 197 for six, 106 runs behind Australia's first-innings total in the decisive final Test.

He had scored only seven more, however, when he padded Stuart MacGill's googly down to fine leg, took on Glenn McGrath's arm when the fast bowler already had the ball in his hand in a desperate attempt to keep the strike, and was run out by a yard.

It had been asking a lot of Hooper to get West Indies close to the Australia total, since they had already lost Perry and Ambrose in the first four overs of the day. However, his dismissal was somewhat typical of one of the most gifted batsmen in the world, whose average of 34 after 80 Tests is a travesty.

Instead, it was McGrath, second only to Lara as the dominant force in this engrossing series, who improved Australia's chances of levelling it and retaining the trophy with

Scoreboard ..... 30

another ruthless demonstration of the class, character and sustained aggression that make him the bowler he is.

He had admitted his foot kicking an advertising hoarding in his frustration at not getting his just deserts the previous night, but the addition of injury to insult only spurred him on to greater efforts and in his second over he produced a classical inswinger of almost yorke length to pluck out Perry's off stump.

Ambrose promptly hoisted MacGill to long-on, where Ricky Ponting held a well-judged catch. Corey Collymore showed his competitive spirit with one or two defiant blows, but Hooper's error of judgment exposed Courtney Walsh to McGrath with only too predictable consequences.

He had given his side the lead of 81, which ought to be decisive on a pitch that is beginning to bounce unpredictably, but Australia did not need reminding that they had a lead of 161 in Barbados and still could not stop Lara from beating them.

They have not made more than 200 in the second innings in four of their past five Tests so there was understandable caution from Michael Slater and Greg Blewett as the old warriors, Walsh and Ambrose, geared themselves up for one last blast.

Walsh could not make a breakthrough this time, but Ambrose followed his five first-innings wickets by straightening the ball up to claim Blewett leg-before.

He also got a couple to bounce disconcertingly, but not nearly as damagingly as Jimmy Adams, who made one of his left-arm spinners spit so wickedly at Ridley Jacobs, the wicketkeeper, that it cut him above the eye and forced him to retire from the fray. Adams himself had to take over the gloves.

## LINKS

WEBSITE: www.cricknet.org  
TELEPHONE: Live on Sky Sports 2, from 3pm

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

As I frequently point out, the play within one suit often depends on the strategy of the rest of the hand. This example is from an early round of the 1999 Gold Cup.

Dealer South	Love all	IMPs
<p>           ♠ KQ109            ♥ QJ10            ♦ K1064            ♣ A75         </p>	<p>           ♠ 842            ♥ 542            ♦ J2            ♣ Q10955         </p>	
<p>           ♠ A75            ♥ 97            ♦ AQ53            ♣ KJ7         </p>	<p>           ♠ 842            ♥ 542            ♦ J2            ♣ Q10955         </p>	

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: five of diamonds.

South opened One No-Trump and North overbid with a direct Three No-Trumps, rather than the more normal Stayman. Not that this would have helped reach Four Hearts which is a much better contract. There are rebid problems if you open the South hand One Heart — rebidding a five-card suit is to be avoided if possible.

Now, how would you play Three No-Trumps? The normal play in diamonds would be to duck the opening lead. But here that is clearly wrong. If East gets in he will switch to clubs, and unless the clubs are 6-2 the defence are bound to get enough tricks in the minors to set the contract. The declarer, Stuart Wheeler, recognised the point, and went up with the king of diamonds at trick one. If that had lost to the ace he would have had no chance, but not would he if he had played low. Say, a small diamond draws the

ace from East: East switches to clubs, and if declarer ducks twice, West switches back to diamonds if he has the ace of spades, otherwise continues clubs.

When the king of diamonds held, Wheeler played a spade and had enough tricks for his contract. He did not see the remaining East-West cards, but I have constructed them to show a typical layout when playing low on the opening diamond would fail.

What if playing the king enables the defence to have enough diamond tricks to beat the contract when they take the ace of spades? That is not possible. From the lead of the five declarer can tell East has one diamond higher than five (Rule of Eleven, remember?). It must be an honour — with AQJ53 of diamonds West would have held the queen. So if the king holds the first trick, either the suit is blocked or it is 4-3.

## KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

### St Petersburg

Today I give two more of the six decisive games from the ten played in the interesting clash between two greats of chess, Boris Spassky and Viktor Korchnoi.

White: Boris Spassky  
Black: Viktor Korchnoi  
St Petersburg 1999

### French Defence

1	b4	b5
2	d4	d5
3	e5	c5
4	c3	Nc6
5	Nf3	Qb6
6	a3	b6
7	Bd3	Bd7
8	Bc2	N5
9	O-O	Nf6
10	Ra2	Be7
11	Be3	N5
12	Bxf5	exd5
13	Be5	Bxf5
14	Bxf5	Qc5
15	a4	Be6
16	Nd4	Nxf5
17	Nd2	Nd4
18	Re1	Qd6
19	N2f3	O-O
20	N3	Nf6
21	Nxe6	f6e6
22	Qd4	Rac8
23	Ne5	Nd7
24	Nd7	Qd7
25	b3	Qe6
26	Rc2	Rf6
27	Re5	Qc5
28	Qd3	Qc5
29	c4	Qa6
30	Qd2	Qd6
31	f4	Qb6+
32	Re3	Re4
33	Re4	Rd8
34	Qc2	Rd1+
35	Nh2	Qd1
36	Rb2	Rh1+
37	Ng3	Rg6+
38	Nh4	Qd1
39	Qe2	Qd8+
40	Re5	Rh6

Checkmate

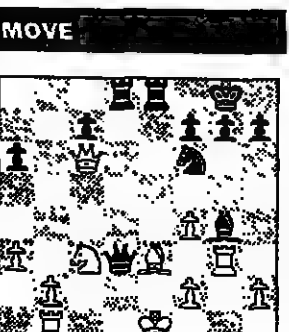
White: Viktor Korchnoi  
Black: Boris Spassky  
St Petersburg 1999

### Grünfeld Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	g5
3	Nc3	g5
4	cd5	Nd5
5	Bd2	Nb6
6	Bf4	Bg7
7	e3	O-O
8	N3	c5
9	de5	Nd7
10	Re1	Nc6
11	Bb5	Nc5
12	O-O	Bf5
13	Qe2	Bd3
14	Bd3	Qd3
15	Rd1	Qe2
16	Nee2	Rf8
17	Nee4	Nd4
18	end	Nd6
19	Bb5	Bf6
20	Rd4	Rd5
21	a4	Rd8
22	Kf1	16
23	Bg3	Kf7
24	h3	Bf7
25	Rd4	Rd7
26	Ke2	Nd8
27	Rc4	Nc6
28	b4	e5
29	b5	Nd5
30	Rd4	Bf6
31	Nc1	Bf6
32	Rd1	Rd4
33	Rd4	Rd4
34	b6	b6
35	Rb6	Nc4
36	Ra6	Rd2+
37	Kf1	Ra2
38	Rb6	Nd2+
39	Kf1	Ra1
40	g4	exf3
41	Rc2	Bf4
42	Kf2	Ne4+
43	Kf3	Nf3
44	Rc7+	Nf6
45	Nc2	Bd6

### Southend

A powerful tournament on the knockout format has just concluded in Southend. Details on www.chess.redbus.co.uk. Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.



By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Gantbold — Sharavdori, Myanmar 1999. The white king is in a very dangerous position, being trapped in the centre and unable to escape. How did Black finish off?

Solution on page 42

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

BITESHEEP  
a. A dog that worries sheep  
b. A bishop  
c. Yellow vetch

ALACRIOUS  
a. Lively  
b. Wingless  
c. Constipated

BABERY  
a. Childishness  
b. A mountain berry  
c. Grotesque ornamentation

BRANKS  
a. Childish tricks  
b. Leggings  
c. A sold's bridle

Answers on page 42

## RUGBY UNION

### Rees out of grand-slam showdown

By David Hands and Alasdair Reid

DAVID REES lost his bid to play in England's grand-slam game with Wales at Wembley on Sunday when he was not among the squad that assembled yesterday in Richmond to prepare for the final weekend of the Five Nations Championship. Rees, the Sale wing, trained last week but could not prove his fitness when Clive Woodward, the England coach, watched his club defeat London Irish at the weekend.

Rees joins Kyran Bracken on the sidelines: both were injured against France, and while Matt Dawson will step up at scrum half, Woodward may offer another Sale player, Steve Hanley, a first cap on the wing.

Whether he does so may depend on Jeremy Guscott's fitness. Guscott will be in the squad named today but England's medical team will monitor closely the strained hamstring that has kept him out of Bath's past two games.

Wales, fresh from away victories over France and Italy, name their team today and will include Neil Jenkins, even though the Pontypridd fly half is carrying a shoulder injury that will require an operation during the summer.

Stuart Reid, the Leeds forward, is set to make his first full international appearance since 1995, after his inclusion in the Scotland squad to face France in Paris on Saturday.

Reid won his only cap to date in Scotland's 15-15 draw with Western Samoa that year. Also drafted in are George Graham and Doddie Weir, both of Newcastle Falcons.

## SPORT IN BRIEF

### Tour ends in defeat

■ **HOCKEY:** England's tour of Argentina came to a disappointing end on Sunday with a 2-1 defeat by the home side in the final of the quadrangular tournament in Buenos Aires (Sydney Friskin writes). Argentina, who had served notice on England with a 5-2 win earlier in the tournament, ended an evenly fought first half with a goal by Lombi. As their confidence grew, they put England under increasing pressure and, in the fifth minute, Matius looped a shot over the head of Triggs for the second. England replied through Sharpe from a well-worked short corner in the 57th minute but were unable to create any more goalscoring opportunities.

■ **ICE HOCKEY:** Jonathan Weaver, Manchester Storm's brightest prospect, could get the chance to step up into the National Hockey League. Weaver, 22, was watched on Saturday by Roy MacLar, president and head of operations at Ottawa Senators. Although Storm lost their Sekonda semi-final 5-0 to Cardiff Devils, Weaver still demonstrated his potential. Kurt Kleinendorst, his coach, believes he is ready for the world's premier league, "but he will need a sympathetic coach, one open-minded about his being a Brit".

■ **ATHLETICS:** Linford Christie, the former Olympic champion sprinter, pulled out of Australia's Stawell Gift race with a hamstring injury yesterday. Christie was due to run in the semi-finals of the Easter sprint handicap, but he suffered a back-related hamstring injury after his two races the previous day. Christie was restricted in his movement and decided, on medical advice, not to run. Rod Matthews, a local sprinter, starting off with a 9.5-metre-handicap, clocked 11.9sec to win the first prize in the 120-metre race.

■ **CRICKET:** Sri Lanka's selectors announced a 15-strong squad yesterday, led by skipper Arjuna Ranatunga, to defend the World Cup in England this summer. Roshan Mahanama and Hashan Tillekeratne, neither of whom had been included in the original selection of 18, have been added to the party.

SQUAD: A Ranatunga (captain), P. A. de Silva, S. T. Jayasinghe, M. S. Atapattu, R. S. Kaluwitharana, M. P. U. C. Vimal, M. Muralitharan, U. U. Chandana, G. P. Wickramasinghe, D. P. M. Jayawardena, R. S. Kapuge, U. C. Hathurusinghe, E. Upasathena, S. R. Mahanama and H. P. Tillekeratne.

■ **CYCLING:** Gordon McCauley, of New Zealand, extended his overnight lead on the final, 66-mile stage to win the Girvan three-day race yesterday. The victory, despite what he described as



# Britain puts dog days firmly in the past

Alix Ramsay, Tennis

Correspondent, on

the rebirth of a once

great Davis Cup power



THERE comes a day in every young dog's life when he finally learns how to bark. At the time, it comes as a great shock, but once he has got the hang of it, there is no stopping him — no milkman or paperboy is safe. Over the Easter weekend, the Great Britain Davis Cup team learnt how to bark. It started as a quiet growl on Friday, as Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski silenced the 9,400 supporters at the National Indoor Arena by losing their opening singles, developed into a deep rumble on Saturday, as they won the doubles, and moved on to a full-throated roar as the tie went to the wire on Sunday night.

Britain lost, but only with the last four points of an enthralling, emotional occasion and what Henman, Rusedski and David Lloyd, their captain, achieved over those three days is worth more than ranking points, tournament titles and even a secure berth in the Davis Cup world group. With some superb tennis, more effort than seemed possible and a dose of sheer bloody-mindedness, they proved, once and for all, that they can compete with the big boys when it matters.

The old image of the awfully nice British chap doing rather well but not quite well enough evaporated after the first day. Henman looked devastated by his loss to Jim Courier on Friday. On Sunday, Rusedski looked worse. He had also fallen in five sets to the old campaigner and could not bear the thought that he had cost Britain the tie.

There was not much more that he could have done. Against Courier, a former world No 1 who has saved his nation's pride in Davis Cup more than once, it all came down to a couple of points here and there. Unfortunately, those points went to the American.

"This is the highest level of tennis that we've been a part of at a Davis Cup tie from start to finish," Courier said generously afterwards. "He knows what he is talking about. He has

played with the best against the best. It was incredibly competitive and, really, just thrilling," he said. "This is as good as it gets. England is very lucky to have that in their first tie back in the world group. This is the type of match that gets a lot of kids wanting to play tennis tomorrow morning."

That must be the hope of the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), which got it right over the weekend. The LTA was the perfect setting, big enough to be imposing but designed in such a way that every member of the crowd felt like they were a part of the action. It encouraged the youngsters to come in their hundreds, it provided banners and raffles and the spectators soon understood that in Davis Cup ties they are allowed to make noise.

"The thing which was nice was that you had such a diverse crowd," Rusedski said. "You had young kids there, it wasn't like your regular tennis supporter in Britain. It was a mixture of kids, people who play, people from different backgrounds. It made it nice and I think it is very important."

From the British perspective, this was the biggest tennis occasion in decades. Those who were lucky enough to be a part of it did their bit to support the team, but with BBC Television's live coverage attracting an audience of 7.8 million on Sunday evening, many more had a taste of the moment. What the LTA has to do now is seize that moment and build on it.

What Lloyd has to do is put the moment behind him and plan for the future. It took Lloyd three years to get Britain back into the world group and in a couple of days he will be able to assess his chances of keeping them there. On Thursday, Britain go into the draw for the relegation play-offs, to be held after the US Open in September.

In all, 16 countries will be vying for their place in the elite — the eight losers from the world group ties trying to stay put and the eight winners of the zonal competitions trying to move up. Britain should be seeded, but with vagaries of the procedure being a mystery to all, including Lloyd, we wait to see.

Whether the tie is at home or away depends on which country Britain is drawn against. If Britain played at home the last time that the countries met, the tie will be played away — and vice versa. If the countries have never met before, they go into a separate draw for home advantage. More importantly, the home team picks the playing surface and with such countries as Spain, Italy, Austria and Chile in the draw, that could mean a clay court, Henman and Rusedski's least favourite surface.

Still, that is for the players to deal with in September. For now, the fact remains that Lloyd's men may have lost the tie, but they have done more for British tennis in three days than anyone has managed in years.

"It has been a fantastic event," Lloyd said. "If we could have won, it would have been unbelievable, but it got a lot of people interested in tennis. It was real blood, sweat and tears. Now we have to get back up and fight again." If Henman and Rusedski can do again what they did in Birmingham, they will live to bark another day.

## GOLF

### Duval casts ethereal shadow over the Masters

FROM JOHN HOPKINS  
GOLF CORRESPONDENT  
IN AUGUSTA

MASTERS week 1999 is already different and we have only been here five minutes. Normally, after competitors have driven their arrival at Augusta National Golf Club, there is good-natured talk about any number of subjects. This time, conversations have centred on David Duval and his stunning start to the year.

Less than 24 hours earlier, Duval had won his fourth tournament of the year and his second in succession and people are wondering whether he could add the 63rd Masters, which begins on Thursday. Actually, that is not strictly true. The talk was about Duval, as if he had become some deity, an ethereal presence hovering, unseen, over the proceedings.

"Has he arrived?" people wanted to know all yesterday morning. "When will he practice?" they asked. "Where is he staying?" The answer to these questions was "yes", "probably Tuesday" and "no, known". Mitch Knox, his caddy, was the first to appear and then later Duval arrived to register. Surrounded by journalists and onlookers, he said: "I am excited. It's a big week and I am looking forward to it."

This did nothing to lessen the fevered speculation about Duval. 27, whose worst finish in a strokeplay event in 1999 is a tie for eighteenth.

"He definitely has something going on up there that no one else has," Jim Furyk, the United States Ryder Cup player, said.

"He's hotter than a firecracker right now," Fuzzy Zoeller said, and then ambled over to talk to John Daly, who is making his first appearance since pulling out of the Players Championship two weeks ago with a hip injury. At least Zoeller put Duval's most recent victory into some perspective, pointing out that on the 9th hole of his last round, Duval's drive had rebounded into the middle of the fairway from a tree — "Winner's luck," Zoeller said.

Thomas Bjorn and Patrick Sjöland tied off at 10.40am in a practice round yesterday, by which time Darren Clarke had completed the homeward nine and had the humping, but by no means unusual experience at this course, of chipping on to the 17th green and then promptly putting off it.

Shortly afterwards, Sergio Garcia, the amateur, began his first official practice round in the company of Severiano Ballesteros, his mentor and countryman, just ahead of a three-ball that comprised Gary Player, Charles Coody and Bob Charles. Tony Jacklin was practising his putting at one end of the putting green while Ian Woosnam was doing likewise at the other.

Lee Westwood arrived at the club and prepared to take his first look at Augusta this year. "It is going to be hard to get past him, isn't it?" Westwood said of Duval.

"He is certainly on a roll," Mark Calavecchia, the 1989 Open champion, said. "To win four tournaments in the Nineties is pretty good. To win four in one year before Augusta is fantastic."

LINKS

WEBSITE: www.pgatour.com  
TELEVISION:  
Coverage of the Masters starts on Thursday on BBC1 at 10.30pm



Henman, who began Great Britain's heroic but ultimately valiant comeback with an enthralling victory over Martin, serves against the backdrop of an enthralled capacity crowd at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham. Photograph: Clive Brunskill / Allsport

## Shouting down calls to gild the Easter lily

By ROB HUGHES, CHIEF SPORTS WRITER

THE Easter sporting weekend was a double triumph for traditionalism. The Boat Race, 170 years old, resisted calls for significant reforms and Cambridge excelled — and the Davis Cup got exactly what it deserved in its centennial year, an engagement of mind, body and soul between players striving might and main and a crowd that came as close to audience participation as spectator sport can allow.

Thank goodness both rowing and tennis have a resistance to those who would tamper with their inherent designs. On the banks of the Thames, the University Boat Race drew its annual 200,000 followers, admitted to the occasion as much as to the sport. What is wrong with that? The race remains a magnet of fascination, the finish still the most clear example of ecstasy and despair in the sporting calendar.

The Davis Cup pitted Great

Britain against the United States, the originals, for the first time in 21 years. Inside the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham, 9,400 people, as many as this resonant hall can hold, spent three days, hour after intense hour, helping Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski to lift Britain, for the first time in living memory, to within an ace of the Americans.

Those who were not in the arena can only have gleaned through the keyhole of television the intensity of the combat and the compelling link between players and a crowd of all ages and classes.

It was draining, it was thrilling and it will leave a taste of the essence of sport long after the chocolate eggs have been forgotten. For both events, we have to thank people long dead who invented the competitions and thank those today who stand in the way of reformers.

Cricket is straining to sustain appeal in this country and, frighteningly, one heard over the Bank Holiday of administrators talking of quick-fix reforms to try to grab the attention of youth. The thinking appears to be that young people are looking for instant gratification, that they might not understand the conventions that have, through the passage of time, made men and women compete until they drop within a given framework of tried and trusted rules.

It is cheap nonsense, arrogance, to assume that our generation can reinvent the sport of our fathers and it risks losing the support of those who trust their sport and its heritage. Instant gratification? Plastic cups are instant and thrown away once used.

No one who experienced it will discard the memory of Birmingham on Easter Sunday. Henman,

undoubtedly Britain's star performer, was wrong when he stated that if his country lost, the weekend was wasted. No sir. It took a display of consummate excellence from Jim Courier to lay Britain's cause to rest. He beat Henman and Rusedski, outlasted them in spirit and, rather than buckle before a partisan crowd, relished the challenge.

There was not much more that he could have done. Against Courier, a former world No 1 who has saved his nation's pride in Davis Cup more than once, it all came down to a couple of points here and there. Unfortunately, those points went to the American.

"This is the highest level of tennis that we've been a part of at a Davis Cup tie from start to finish," Courier said generously afterwards. "He knows what he is talking about. He has

athletics — because in the arena, athletes can challenge themselves."

The essence of sport: athletes challenging, the audience riding that tightrope between nationalism and thoroughly legitimate involvement and all within rules invented a century ago. Behind the scenes, the International Tennis Federation, television broadcasters and sponsors meet to consider shortening matches from five sets to three, altering the scoring system as if a new, youthful generation cannot be taught to share the thrill.

The evidence of Easter 1999 belied that thirst for change; many a child stayed up beyond their bedtime and, whether they knew how to score tennis before they entered the arena or not, they mastered the rapid learning curve. Their shrill, persistent excitement — and some of us oldies, too — was locked in the engagement that allows ordinary people to share with gifted performers. A very happy Easter indeed.

## Beware the hype when casting around for tackle

Brian Clarke says newcomers to the sport of flyfishing should shop sensibly and seek out expert advice

Citroën once produced a memorable series of advertisements for its get-in-with-a-lin-opener 2CV. They purported to equate that idiosyncratic jolopy with a range of top-flight cars. "How many wheels does a Rolls-Royce have? Four. How many wheels does a 2CV have? Four!" ... "Porsche put their parcel-shelves on the outside. With the 2CV, you get the parcel shelf on the inside!" Something like that. The way message each time was — why pay the difference?

The same question may be asked of any flyfisher looking for new equipment just now. A new trout season is upon us and the air is filled with the song of tackle-dealers pushing wheelbarrows to the bank.

Of course, we all got the Citroën

joke. The difference between a car at the bottom of a range and the top is usually obvious in looks and gliding in performance. The same is not true for the flyfisher. Rods, reels and the rest are designed to help an angler put his fly where he wants it and to handle effectively any fish hooked as a result.

Many a low-priced outfit will do that as well as top-priced kit and the actual rods may appear to be indistinguishable.

So why should anyone taking up fly-fishing this spring pay the difference in cost between the two? I can

think of no good reason. Astronomical prices are being asked today for tackle that incorporates minor and in some cases undetectable alleged advances. Many genuinely excellent American products sold here can be bought at a fraction of the price in

the United States. You could take a break in America to buy them and have the cost of the trip covered by the savings. In the meantime, rods that would perform brilliantly, though maybe without the cachet of a few well-typed names, go begging.

A fly fisherman on small streams will want a rod in the 7ft to 8ft range carrying maybe a four-weight line. An angler tackling larger rivers and many still waters will want something between 8ft and 9ft 6ins, carrying five-weight to seven-weight lines. For some lake fishing and angling for sea trout, rods of up to 10ft or a little more, carrying lines up to eight-weight or so, will be useful.

Large numbers of rods for all these purposes are priced at £400, £500 and more, while serviceable

outfits — rods, reels, lines, leaders and flies together — can be bought for two-thirds less. The rods I use for virtually all my own stream and river fishing cost £120 apiece — yet have had users of £500 rods gasp at the silken ease with which each puts out a line. My favourite wet-fly rod for lakes cost me £25 second-hand and its original owner £70 new. When I wanted a salmon two-hander, I sought advice from a brilliant salmon angler. What did he recommend out of all the rods available, most of which he had tried? Why, the same rod he uses himself — a Japanese product costing £300 new, which I picked up second-hand for £200. It performs like a dream.

The reality is that few rods and anglers are born for one another. Often enough, we buy a rod that

feels good in the hand. If, having bought it, the rod shows a less-than-fatal quirk, we tend to fish on and adjust to it. More often than not, the rod we fish with ends up becoming the rod we know and learn to love.

It is the same with fly reels. Plenty of reels now come in at between £250 and £400 — a few at even more. I have never spent more than £80 and the two of that price I do own both incorporate superb disc drags. Many expert flyfishers are wedded to reels that cost between £30 and £40 apiece.

On the high-price options, this or that gizmo justifies a little extra cost and hype delivers the rest. Statements like "the days are long gone when a reel was regarded largely as a place to store line" are now heard repeatedly — and are

wrong. The prime function of a reel will always be to store and, of course, dispense and recover line. The essential qualities — lightness, reliability and an exposed rim — cost very little in themselves.

In truth, the rod has not yet been priced that will turn an indifferent caster into a good caster and no outfit has been assembled that will make up for a lack of fishing skills. Unless the angler knows the value of a cautious approach to the water, can read the currents, knows where a fish is likely to lie and can present the right fly in such a way that it comes to his quarry's attention naturally, every penny spent on any rod will be money down the drain.

None of this is to say that much expensive tackle is not superb or that good tackle will not give a

good fisherman an edge: simply that expensive tackle will not necessarily be good tackle and that quite superb gear can be had at a very modest price. Telling the difference in the shop or in the catalogue is, of course, the problem.

For the angler who can be persuaded that he needs the most expensive in anything and can afford it, the issue is neither here nor there. For many more — and especially glibly newcomers confronted by honey-tongued salesmen — the issue is often central. My advice to anyone starting up is to seek independent, experienced advice if he or she can and, if they cannot, then to buy modestly and spend anything extra on tuition.

□ Brian Clarke's next column will appear on Monday, May 3

Fishing skills are what matter

No rod will make a good caster







# Chris McGrath watches an historic day unfold at Wincanton

## Dunwoody makes up the numbers

IARD DUNWOODY became numerically the most successful National Hunt jockey riding the 167th winner of his career at Wincanton today, but insisted that the road remains distant on the horizon. Nonetheless, the landmark he passed yesterday had undoubtedly become a significant destination in itself.

Of course, his craving for Peasgood's all-time National Hunt record feeds upon an obsessive streak that drives him against the clock of time and injury. He is now in the sauna to combat the heat and is noticeably pained by Britain's motorway, moreover, he is currently hampered by muscle damage in his right arm. But he refuses to entertain the thought that he has found an elusive partner in his quest for a third Martell Grand National at Aintree on Saturday, when he rides Call It A Day. "Hopefully there will be only more winners over the next few years," he said, "here I have to be, because

otherwise it won't be long before a certain A.P. McCoy passes us," he said.

The usual Easter holiday throng was further condensed by Dunwoody's arrival at Wincanton, one short of Scudamore's total and with five strongly fancied rides for Paul Nicholls, the season's leading trainer. Though My Man Dan had not read the script and unprompted beat Estate Agent, the odds-on favourite for the

the conclusion lustily demanded by the crowd.

Dunwoody was singularly undemonstrative passing the post, and though he managed a very passable "flying dismount", à la Franide Dettori, he seemed intent on savouring the moment with the dignity and self-possession that have been his nearly constant companions during the past two decades.

He received an embrace from his parents, a mugshot of champagne from the racecourse, a warm shake of the hand from Scudamore, and a couple of hundred autograph requests — not one of which he turned down. His breeches smeared green and brown by his fall, he said: "We have had our ups and downs but it's great for the crowd that has supported me through the day that we got there in the end."

"They gave me a brilliant reception and I would have felt I had let them down if I hadn't done it. Yes, this was a priority for me at the beginning of the season, but I still have plenty to keep me going for a start, it would be nice if I could finish in the top three in the title race again. After 25,000 miles over hurdles and fences, with the odd bumper in between, it's a great moment, especially with my mother, father and sister here."

Scudamore declared himself honoured to pass on his record to "the ultimate professional". He said: "People can't understand it, but I don't feel sad or bitter. I'm genuinely delighted for Richard. He has got everything, but the thing that sets him apart from all the others is his determination and courage. There are lots and lots of good riders, but to do what he has done you need that mental toughness."



Dunwoody, left, is congratulated by Scudamore after passing his record yesterday

"Not many people know what he has been through to achieve this — Stan Mellor, John Francombe and myself have some idea — and it's a quite magnificent record. You may get more publicity and earn more money in some other sports, but I don't think anyone has ever worked harder in sport. He is a truly great man of spirit."

Francombe, who bowed out with 1,138 winners in 1985, said: "What he has done is like

winning four gold medals. He gives 100 per cent and hates getting beaten. You never see him give one a bad ride."

Stan Mellor, the first jump jockey to ride over a thousand winners in 1971 with Ouzo, also paid tribute to Dunwoody: "Richard's a classic, a master jockey and rides with tremendous authority. It's a terrible argument to say who is the best, but Richard will have to be one of the all-time greats."

Nicholls likewise paid tribute to Dunwoody's "professionalism in everything he does". The trainer said: "A lot of people have talent but don't know how to use it, they lack that extra commitment. It's one thing being able to ride but another being able to put it all together. He's a top man." So much so, that his colleagues call him The Prince. For all his grace in the saddle, however, his secret remains that he rides with the hunger of a pauper.

Richard Dunwoody	1982	1,679
Peter Scudamore	1982	1,678
John Francombe	1985	1,138
Stan Mellor	1985	1,035
Peter Nicholls	1984	939
Fred Winter	1984	923
Graham McCourt	1985	921
Boy Davies	1985	911
Terry Baldock	1985	908
Jonjo O'Neill	1985	888
Tony McCoy	1985	839
Ron Barry	1985	823

ROB WRIGHT	3.40 Kosovo
4.00 Gold Chance	4.10 Artico Courier
10 Killamey Jazz	4.40 Busting Rio

leamarket Correspondent: 2.40 Gold Chance.  
10 Killamey Jazz. 4.10 ARTICO COURIER (nap).

2.10 KING ARTHUR MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O; £2,264; 70) (11 runners)
100 CUMBERBURY BLUE 8.7 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
101 EXAL 12.1 (A) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
102 WALTER PIERCE 13.4 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
103 DUNSTON BLISS 15.1 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
104 GREY MATE 16.1 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
105 GREY MATE 17.1 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
106 GREY MATE 18.1 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
107 GREY MATE 19.1 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
108 GREY MATE 20.1 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
109 GREY MATE 21.1 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
110 GREY MATE 22.1 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9

2.40 GALAHAD CLAIMING STAKES (£2,082; 50) (9)
100 CRYSTAL LOVER 33.1 (S) 4-1-1 ... M. Fallon 9
101 CRYSTAL LOVER 34.1 (S) 4-1-1 ... M. Fallon 9
102 CRYSTAL LOVER 35.1 (S) 4-1-1 ... M. Fallon 9
103 CRYSTAL LOVER 36.1 (S) 4-1-1 ... M. Fallon 9
104 CRYSTAL LOVER 37.1 (S) 4-1-1 ... M. Fallon 9
105 CRYSTAL LOVER 38.1 (S) 4-1-1 ... M. Fallon 9
106 CRYSTAL LOVER 39.1 (S) 4-1-1 ... M. Fallon 9
107 CRYSTAL LOVER 40.1 (S) 4-1-1 ... M. Fallon 9
108 CRYSTAL LOVER 41.1 (S) 4-1-1 ... M. Fallon 9
109 CRYSTAL LOVER 42.1 (S) 4-1-1 ... M. Fallon 9
110 CRYSTAL LOVER 43.1 (S) 4-1-1 ... M. Fallon 9

3.10 PERCEVAL HANDICAP (£2,853; 1m) (14)
100 HOBSON 10.0 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
101 HOBSON 11.0 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
102 HOBSON 12.0 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
103 HOBSON 13.0 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
104 HOBSON 14.0 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
105 HOBSON 15.0 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
106 HOBSON 16.0 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
107 HOBSON 17.0 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
108 HOBSON 18.0 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
109 HOBSON 19.0 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
110 HOBSON 20.0 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9

3.40 LANCELOT CLASSIFIED STAKES (£2,306; 70) (16)
1120 GARRICK VALLEY 5 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
1121 GARRICK VALLEY 6 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
1122 GARRICK VALLEY 7 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
1123 GARRICK VALLEY 8 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
1124 GARRICK VALLEY 9 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
1125 GARRICK VALLEY 10 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
1126 GARRICK VALLEY 11 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
1127 GARRICK VALLEY 12 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
1128 GARRICK VALLEY 13 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
1129 GARRICK VALLEY 14 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
1130 GARRICK VALLEY 15 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9

4.10 HOLY GRAIL APPRENTICES SELLING STAKES (£1,787; 1m 40) (7)
1331 ARTICO COURIER 40 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
1332 ARTICO COURIER 41 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
1333 ARTICO COURIER 42 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
1334 ARTICO COURIER 43 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
1335 ARTICO COURIER 44 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
1336 ARTICO COURIER 45 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
1337 ARTICO COURIER 46 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9

4.40 EXCALIBUR HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £2,190; 1m 30) (3)
1241 CHALLENGER 91 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
1242 CHALLENGER 92 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
1243 CHALLENGER 93 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
1244 CHALLENGER 94 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
1245 CHALLENGER 95 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
1246 CHALLENGER 96 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9
1247 CHALLENGER 97 (S) 9-0-0 ... M. Fallon 9

COURSE SPECIALISTS
FRANCOIS, M. 5 W. 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000, 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1015, 1016, 1017, 1018, 1019, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1025, 1026, 1027, 1028, 1029, 1030, 1031, 1032, 1033, 1034, 1035, 1036, 1037, 1038, 1039, 1040, 1041, 1042, 1043, 1044, 1045, 1046, 1047, 1048, 1049, 1050, 1051, 1052, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064, 1065, 1066, 1067, 1068, 1069, 1070, 1071, 1072, 1073, 1074, 1075, 1076, 1077, 1078, 1079, 1080, 1081, 1082, 1083, 1084, 1085, 1086, 1087, 1088, 1089, 1090, 1091, 1092, 1093, 1094, 1095, 1096, 1097, 1098, 1099, 1100, 1101, 1102, 1103, 1104, 1105, 1106, 1107, 1108, 1109, 1110, 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1117, 1118, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1124, 1125, 1126, 1127, 1128, 1129, 1130, 1131, 1132, 1133, 1134, 1135, 1136, 1137, 1138, 1139, 1140, 1141, 1142, 1143, 1144, 1145, 1146, 1147, 1148, 1149, 1150, 1151, 1152, 1153, 1154, 1155, 1156, 1157, 1158, 1159, 1160, 1161, 1162, 1163, 1164, 1165, 1166, 1167, 1168, 1169, 1170, 1171, 1172, 1173, 1174, 1175, 1176, 1177, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181, 1182, 1183, 1184, 1185, 1186, 1187, 1188, 1189, 1190, 1191, 1192, 1193, 1194, 1195, 1196, 1197, 1198, 1199, 1200, 1201, 1202, 1203, 1204, 1205, 1206, 1207, 1208, 1209, 1210, 1211, 1212, 1213, 1214, 1215, 1216, 1217, 1218, 1219, 1220, 1221, 1222, 1223, 1224, 1225, 1226, 1227, 1228, 1229, 1230, 1231, 1232, 1233, 1234, 1235, 1236, 1237, 1238, 1239, 1240, 1241, 1242, 1243, 1244, 1245, 1246, 1247, 1248, 1249, 1250, 1251, 1252, 1253, 1254, 1255, 1256, 1257, 1258, 1259, 1260, 1261, 1262, 1263, 1264, 1265, 1266, 1267, 1268, 1269, 1270, 1271, 1272, 1273, 1274, 1275, 1276, 1277, 1278, 1279, 1280, 1281, 1282, 1283, 1284, 1285, 1286, 1287, 1288, 1289, 1290, 1291, 1292, 1293, 1294, 1295, 1296, 1297, 1298, 1299, 1300, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1311, 1312, 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1317, 1318, 1319, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1324, 1325, 1326, 1327, 1328, 1329, 1330, 1331, 1332, 1333, 1334, 1335, 1336, 1337, 1338, 1339, 1340, 1341, 1342, 1343, 1344, 1345, 1346, 1347, 1348, 1349, 1350, 1351, 1352, 1353, 1354, 1355, 1356, 1357, 1358, 1359, 1360, 1361, 1362, 1363, 1364, 1365, 1366, 1367, 1368, 1369, 1370, 1371, 1372, 1373, 1374, 1375, 1376, 1377, 1378, 1379, 1380, 1381, 1382, 1383, 1384, 1385, 1386, 1387, 1388, 1389, 1390, 1391, 1392, 1393, 1394, 1395, 1396, 1397, 1398, 1399, 1400, 1401, 1402, 1403, 1404, 1405, 1406, 1407, 1408, 1409, 1410, 1411, 1412, 1413, 1414, 1415, 1416, 1417, 1418, 1419, 1420, 1421, 1422, 1423, 1424, 1425, 1426, 1427, 1428, 1429, 1430, 1431, 1432, 1433, 1434, 1435, 1436, 1437, 1438, 1439, 1440, 1441, 1442, 1443, 1444, 1445, 1446, 1447, 1448, 1449, 1450, 1451, 1452, 1453, 1454, 1455, 1456, 1457, 1458, 1459, 1460, 1461, 1462, 1463, 1464, 1465, 1466, 1467, 1468, 1469, 1470, 1471, 1472, 1473, 1474, 1475, 1476, 1477, 1478, 1479, 1480, 1481, 1482, 1483, 1484, 1485, 1486, 1487, 1488, 1489, 1490, 1491, 1



# Davis fights to stay with elite

STEVE DAVIS, six times the world champion, improved his chances of reaching a unique milestone by beating Darren Clarke 5-2 in the first round of the British Open in Plymouth yesterday.

Davis, attempting to remain a member of snooker's elite top 16 in the world rankings for an unprecedented twentieth consecutive season, is among a group of players, including Jimmy White, who are in danger of falling out of the top places and who require a spirited finish to the 1989-90 campaign.

When Clarke, the world No 87, completed breaks of 75 and 46 to lead 2-0, Davis looked to be in danger of suffering a repeat of his miserable defeat by the same opponent at the corresponding stage of the Scottish Open two months ago.

"A bit of panic set in, but I dug myself out of a hole, which is always encouraging," Davis said. "I went on automatic pilot, stopped worrying about the result and the rankings, and just went for it."

"Being in the top 16 unbroken for all those years would be special, I have to admit. That's why I'll be all geared up for the next month, but I don't want to think about the rankings too much."

Dominic Dale, another player in contention for top-16 status, was beaten 5-4 by Michael Judge after

## SNOKKER

By Phil Yates

leading 4-2, while Fergal O'Brien stayed in the hunt with a 5-4 win over Antony Bolsover, who recorded a break of 136, the highest of the event, in the first frame.

While Davis, at 41 the oldest competitor in the tournament, retains enthusiasm for practice, John Higgins admits he is finding it "boring" at the end of a long season in which he has featured at the business end of the vast majority of events. Higgins has, by his own admission, gone through the motions in preparation. There was, however, no sign of fatigue during a 5-0 whitewash of John Read.

The Scot, who defeated Stephen Hendry 9-8 in the final of last year's British Open, out-scored Read 394-73. "It's difficult to keep going when you've been playing snooker day-in, day-out for ages," he said.

John Parrott overcame the loss of two frames on the black and another on the pink before play was suspended at 4-4 to accommodate the start of the following session. By accounting for the decider with a run of 72, Parrott beat Lee Walker 5-4.

# Neal relishes glory of private life

By KEVIN EASON

FOR a few tantalising seconds yesterday, Matt Neal's grasp on a £250,000 prize was slipping away. That was until the privateer overcame an attack of nerves at his pit-stop to take the huge reward for being the first independent driver to win a round of the Auto Trader British Touring Car Championship, beating a grid packed with hand-somely-funded manufacturer teams.

Through the line of expensive glossy trucks that transported the works-financed cars to Donington Park stood a murky brown motorhome, where the bottled beer flowed last night, celebrating this family victory.

Neal's father, Steve, funds Team Dynamics through his alloy wheel manufacturing business on a budget of about £500,000 a year, a tenth the amount that manufacturers such as Nissan and Ford spend on their cars and drivers. During the week, Neal, 32, is marketing director of the Rimstock wheel business; at the weekends, he is a driver who has failed to attract the attention of a works team after seven years in touring cars.

He got his revenge by beating them all yesterday. Well-wishers, who have watched Neal struggle to overcome the big battalions, gathered around the family caravan awning, anxious to applaud one of the most romantic stories of mod-



Neal enjoys his moment of triumph on the winner's podium after his unlikely victory at Donington

ern motor racing. In the space of 44 minutes, Neal, from Stourbridge in the West Midlands, transformed himself from plucky privateer to a championship contender—and won the cost of half the team budget.

However, he admitted that his anxiety not to make a silly error

almost cost him the race and his cheque. He had led from pole position, building up a substantial lead over James Thompson, in a Honda, and driving his Nissan Primera GT faster than any other machine in the field—a shock for the Nissan works team, which sold him a 1998 car during the winter.

At the halfway stage in the 36-lap feature race, Neal gingerly entered the pits to take on fresh tyres. As he was signalled away, he hit the throttle too early and stalled. As he pressed the start button to rectify his basic mistake, cars rushed past the pit exit ahead of him.



First man, then machine

Congratulations to Team Honda Sport for winning at the Auto Trader British Touring Car Championship's first event of the season at Donington Park.

One down, twelve meetings to go.

For details on the range or your local Honda dealer, call 0345 159 159.

Technology you can enjoy, from Honda.

One Bank Holiday motorist

# everyone got stuck behind.



## FOR THE RECORD

### BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: San Diego 2, Colorado 0.

### BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Atlanta 85, Charlotte 83; Boston 79, New Jersey 91; Washington 79, Miami 90; Indiana 108, New York 95; Seattle 101, Houston 84; Toronto 87, Philadelphia 82; Chicago 88, Milwaukee 87; Cleveland 96, Minnesota 74; Denver 82, LA Clippers 80.

### CRICKET

Fourth Test match

West Indies v Australia

ST. JOHN'S (third day of five). Australia, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 161 runs ahead of West Indies.

AUSTRALIA: First innings 303 (S R Waugh 72 not out, J L Langer 51; C E L Ambrose 5 for 94).

Second innings

G S Blewett 106, D A Ambrose 7.

M J Slater 44.

J L Langer not out 24.

N E Waugh not out 8.

Extras (w 1, nb 1) 2.

Total (2 wickets) 89.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16, 2-76.

BOWLING: Ambrose 8-8-8-1; Walsh 10-3-22-1; Hooper 8-4-1-20-0; Adams 4-2-8-7-0; Collymore 8-0-28-0.

WEST INDIES: First innings

S L Campbell 4, M E Waugh 10, Miller 8.

A P G Griffin 4, Healy 10, Miller 8.

D R E Joseph 10, D Dale 28.

T B G Lewis 4, Healy 10, Miller 8.

C L Hooper 10, Miller 8.

J C Adams 4, Healy 10, Miller 8.

R D O'Connell 10, Miller 8.

N O Perry 10, Miller 8.

C E L Ambrose 4, Posing 10, Miller 8.

D D Collymore 10, Miller 8.

C A Walsh 10, Miller 8.

Extras (nb 6) 6.

Total 222.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-30, 3-138, 4-178, 5-192, 6-205, 7-206, 8-213.

BOWLING: McGrath 27-9-84-3; Dale 18-7-67-2; Miller 17-4-39-2; MacGill 14-5-32-2.

Umpires: D L Orchard (SA) and S A Bucknor.

### GOLF

GEORGIA: Ben South Classic: Leading final scores (United States unless stated).

270: D Dowd 68, 68, 68, 67, 272: S O'Neil 71, 65, 66, 70, 273: R Sabbatini (SA) 65, 65, 73, 70; J Huston 71, 65, 67, 70, 274: F Langham 63, 67, 68, 70, 275: M West (Ire) 65, 65, 65, 72, 276: G Day 68, 67, 72, 68, 277: D Love 69, 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 278: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 279: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 280: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 281: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 282: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 283: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 284: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 285: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 286: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 287: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 288: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 289: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 290: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 291: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 292: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 293: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 294: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 295: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 296: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 297: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 298: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 299: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 300: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 301: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 302: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 303: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 304: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 305: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 306: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 307: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 308: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 309: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 310: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 311: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 312: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 313: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 314: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 315: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 316: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 317: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 318: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 319: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 320: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 321: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 322: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 323: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 324: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 325: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 326: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 327: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 328: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 329: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 330: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 331: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 332: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 333: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 334: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 335: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 336: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 337: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 338: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 339: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 340: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 341: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 342: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 343: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 344: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 345: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 346: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 347: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 348: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 349: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 350: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 351: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 352: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 353: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 354: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 355: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 356: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 357: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 358: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 359: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 360: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 361: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 362: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 363: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 364: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 365: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 366: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 367: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 368: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 369: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 370: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 371: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 372: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 373: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 374: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 375: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 376: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 377: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 378: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 379: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 380: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 381: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 382: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 383: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 384: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 385: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 386: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 387: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 388: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 389: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 390: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 391: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 392: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 393: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 394: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 395: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 396: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 397: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 398: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 399: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 400: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 401: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 402: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 403: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 404: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 405: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 406: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 407: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 408: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 409: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 410: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 411: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 412: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 413: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 414: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 415: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 416: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 417: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 418: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 419: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 420: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 421: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 422: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 423: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 424: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 425: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 426: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 427: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 428: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 429: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 430: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 431: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 432: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 433: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 434: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 435: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 436: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 437: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 438: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 439: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 440: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 441: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 442: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 443: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 444: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 445: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 446: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 447: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 448: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 449: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 450: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 451: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 452: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 453: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 454: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 455: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 456: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 457: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 458: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 459: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 460: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 461: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 462: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 463: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 464: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 465: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 466: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 467: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 468: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 469: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 470: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 471: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 472: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 473: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 474: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 475: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 476: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 477: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 478: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 479: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 480: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 481: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 482: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 483: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 484: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 485: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 486: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 487: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 488: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 489: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 490: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 491: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 492: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 493: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 494: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 495: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 496: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 497: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 498: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 499: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 500: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 501: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 502: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 503: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 504: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 505: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 506: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 507: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 508: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 509: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 510: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 511: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 512: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 513: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 514: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 515: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 516: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 517: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 518: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 519: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 520: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 521: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 522: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 523: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 524: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 525: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 526: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 527: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 528: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 529: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 530: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 531: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 532: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 533: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 534: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 535: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 536: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71, 64, 71, 537: D O'Connell 68, 68, 71,





Patrick Berger, of Liverpool, tumbles beneath the challenge of Olivier Dacourt, of Everton, at Anfield on Saturday. Photograph: Ross Kimbaird/Allsport

## Berger finally comes good to satisfy hunger for points

This week's player lists (right) are based on the games played on Easter Saturday only. Points gained in games played yesterday and tonight will be included in next week's lists, along with next weekend's FA Carling Premiership programme.

Saturday's games brought a welcome reward for a member of one of society's permanently impoverished groups. Robin Newnham of Marcham, Oxfordshire, a first-year university student, is the winner of our weekly prize. In this case £1,000, a roll-over in the absence of any Premiership games last week.

"Money always comes in handy for students," he said. He also gets £100 worth of sports equipment.

Mr Newnham is studying History at Lincoln College, Oxford, and was pleased to hear the news of his win after a slightly disappointing weekend; he went to watch the Boat Race, which Oxford lost, while his favourite football team, Tottenham Hotspur, also came second, at home to Leicester City, who took revenge for their defeat in the Worthington Cup final with a 2-0 victory at White Hart Lane.

Yet even that cloud had a silver lining, as the performance of Matt Elliott, the Leicester defender and Scotland international, who scored and helped his team to a clean sheet, was worth a total of

six points. "I had mixed feelings about that," Mr Newnham admitted.

The other top points-scorer in the team, Mindbenders, was Patrick Berger, of Liverpool, with a goal and an assist against Everton in the Merseyside derby, worth a total of five. "He didn't do too well at the beginning, but he's in good form now," Mr Newnham said.

It capped a satisfying few days for Berger, who was in the Czech Republic side that won in Scotland last Wednesday; Matt Elliott, coincidentally, also played in that game, scoring an unfortunate own goal in the 2-1 defeat.

In a remarkably consistent team performance, seven of Mr Newnham's selection scored three points each: Mark

Bosnich, Andy Impey, Nigel Winterburn and Frank Leboeuf were involved in shut-outs, while David Beckham, Paulo Wandhope and Jason Euell scored goals. Euell and Beckham in the same match.

The only two non-contributors to the total of 32 points were Steve Stone and Paul Merson of Aston Villa.

□ Since no ON-Target numbers were printed on this page last week, the winner of this week's competition can look forward to a roll-over prize of £1,000. So if your team total based on this week's player lists comes to either 1, 7 or 17, follow the instructions below to find out if you are a winner.

□ Two weeks ago, in our Fantasy Quiz on this page, we asked you what four particular players had in common. Alan Shearer (Newcastle United), Mark Hughes (Southampton), Paul Ince (Liverpool) and Gary Pallister (Middlesbrough) all know how it feels to win the FA Carling Premiership, even if none of them seem to have much chance of repeating the feat with their current clubs.

□ For legal reasons, *The Times Fantasy League* is no longer able to accept entries from players under 18 years of age. Players 17 and under already registered in the main and youth leagues will, however, be allowed to remain in the competition.



## Time to reap the rewards of patience

With less than a fifth of the season remaining, managers in *The Times Fantasy League* can be crippled by player injuries and suspensions and now is the time that those who have some transfers saved for a rainy day can reap the rewards.

With the Premiership transfer deadline day passing without any major moves, Fantasy League managers are wise in the

knowledge that the only possible additions to the player list are those who have spent much of the season in the reserves. This ensures that potential purchasers should keep an eagle eye on players who have most opportunities to score some points.

After next weekend, Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester United and Tottenham will have only played 31 of their 38 fixtures,

whereas many Premiership sides will have played 33. A three-match ban for a player at this stage of the season can prove very costly indeed for Fantasy League managers.

Want to make one of your 12 transfers? Call

**0640 62 51 03**  
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4270)  
0640 calls cost 60p per minute  
Ex UK calls charged at national rates

Those owning Robbie Fowler face an anxious wait regarding the news of his disciplinary hearing, where he is virtually guaranteed a penalty. A massive fine will not concern Fantasy League managers, but a hefty ban will hit them hard.

However, a two-match ban will still mean that he has the same amount of opportunities to score as Bergkamp, Anelka and Dublin because of the fact that

his team have failed to play all their scheduled fixtures so far. The list of players that have been told their season is over is growing. Ramon Vega is the latest to hear those dreaded words and joins the list including Pierluigi Casiraghi, Robert Mladenovic, Martin Hiden and Jeff Kenna who will all have to wait until next season before they kick a ball in vain again.

MATT SIMS

## Are you on target to win £1,000?

Congratulations to Ms P Kelly, of London EC1, the main winner of ON-Target from two weeks ago.

Even if you do not have a Fantasy League team, you can enter this new game now - or enter a new one simply for ON-Target. All managers have the chance to win a share of £28,000 of new prizes. *The Times* has teamed up with EA Sports to offer you the chance to own the renowned FIFA 99 game. Every week you could win:

- 1st Prize: £500 plus an EA Sports Pack
- 4 runners up: EA Sports Packs
- 10 additional runners up: FIFA 99 CD-Rom.

Each EA Sports Pack contains: FIFA 99 for the PlayStation; FIFA 99 for the PC; EA Sports T-Shirt, key ring and mini football plus a record bag. If you already have a team in the main game, you're ready to play ON-Target. Simply check your Fantasy League players' score each week and see if their total is the same as our ON-Target score. If you have scored the exact target points, a quick call to our ON-Target winners' line (national rate call) will put you in the draw to win one of the 15 prizes. You can enter at any time and there are no limits

to how many teams you can enter. HOW TO ENTER: Look up your players' weekly point scores opposite and add them up, or call the checklist 0640 625 102 (ex-UK +44 870 901 4270) (calls charged at national rates).

Should last about a minute. Claims must be made before midnight on Sunday. The lines then close until the next game starts on Tuesday morning. If you have scored the correct number of points AND called the claim line, you go into the draw. Just look in the paper on the following Tuesday to see if you have won. Managers with the correct points who have not called the claim line will not be entered. Calls that are incomplete, inaudible or invalid will not be entered. All teams in the draw must conform to the main game rules.

Winners The winners from two weeks ago are: Mr P Kelly of London EC1 (5500 plus EA Sports Pack); Gary Wilson of Middlesbrough; Brian Mowbray of Leigh-on-Sea; Mr V Bennett of Rednal and Mr A Smith of Hampton-in-Arden (EA Sports Packs); Mr P Stone of New Barnet; Mr S Collins of Lifford; Gary Wynn of Chesham; Neil Ready of London NW6; Alan Bennett of Epsom; Mr D Hinchey of Lifford; David Hughes of Kings Walsley; John Black of Uxbridge; Richard Greenall of Chertsey and Mr P Keary of London NW10 (FIFA 99 CD-Roms).

### THIS WEEK'S ON-TARGET SCORE

Has your team scored...

## 1, 7 or 17

points?

Check your total, then ring

**0870 901 4270**

(ex-UK +44 870 901 4270)

Calls charged at national rates

### CHOOSE YOUR PLAYERS FROM HERE

Columns show code, name, club, weekly points, total points, valuation (m).

#### GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Club	Weekly	Total	Valuation
431	F. Forster	AST	0	0	3.5
432	L. Howard	AST	0	0	3.5
433	T. Taylor	AST	0	0	3.5
434	J. Wright	AST	0	0	3.5
435	D. Bell	AST	0	0	3.5
436	J. Wright	AST	0	0	3.5
437	T. Taylor	AST	0	0	3.5
438	D. Bell	AST	0	0	3.5
439	J. Wright	AST	0	0	3.5
440	D. Bell	AST	0	0	3.5
441	J. Wright	AST	0	0	3.5
442	D. Bell	AST	0	0	3.5
443	J. Wright	AST	0	0	3.5
444	D. Bell	AST	0	0	3.5
445	J. Wright	AST	0	0	3.5
446	D. Bell	AST	0	0	3.5
447	J. Wright	AST	0	0	3.5
448	D. Bell	AST	0	0	3.5
449	J. Wright	AST	0	0	3.5
450	D. Bell	AST	0	0	3.5

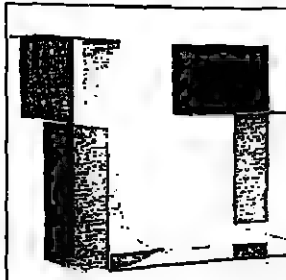
#### FULL BACKS

Code	Name	Club	Weekly	Total	Valuation
303	R. Davis	ARS	0	14	3.5
304	L. Mullen	ARS	0	14	3.5
305	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
306	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
307	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
308	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
309	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
310	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
311	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
312	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
313	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
314	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
315	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
316	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
317	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
318	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
319	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
320	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
321	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
322	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
323	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
324	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
325	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
326	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
327	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
328	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
329	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
330	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
331	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
332	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
333	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
334	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
335	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
336	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
337	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
338	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
339	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
340	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
341	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
342	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
343	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
344	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
345	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
346	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
347	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
348	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
349	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
350	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
351	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
352	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
353	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
354	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
355	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
356	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
357	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
358	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
359	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
360	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
361	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
362	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
363	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
364	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
365	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
366	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
367	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
368	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
369	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
370	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
371	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
372	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
373	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
374	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
375	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
376	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
377	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
378	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
379	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
380	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
381	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
382	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
383	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
384	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
385	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
386	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
387	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
388	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
389	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
390	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
391	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
392	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
393	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
394	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
395	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
396	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
397	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
398	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
399	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
400	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
401	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
402	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
403	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
404	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
405	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
406	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
407	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
408	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
409	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
410	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5

#### CENTRE BACKS

Code	Name	Club	Weekly	Total	Valuation
303	R. Davis	ARS	0	14	3.5
304	L. Mullen	ARS	0	14	3.5
305	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
306	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
307	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
308	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
309	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
310	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
311	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
312	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
313	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
314	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
315	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
316	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
317	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
318	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
319	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
320	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
321	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
322	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
323	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
324	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
325	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
326	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
327	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
328	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
329	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
330	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
331	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
332	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
333	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
334	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
335	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
336	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
337	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
338	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
339	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
340	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
341	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
342	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
343	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
344	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5
345	M. Smith	ARS	0	14	3.5





**VISUAL ART**  
Rediscovering  
Katarzyna  
Kobro in Leeds  
PAGE 33

# THE TIMES ARTS

**OPERA**  
Exploring  
depravity  
with Salome  
PAGE 34



## Descartes deconstructed in space

Reality goes into the cybermancer  
in Hollywood's latest high-tech  
blockbuster. Giles Whittell reports

It was as if David L. Smith had sneaked into a preview of *The Matrix* and seen in it his destiny. Smith was the 30-year-old computer programmer arrested on Friday for sending a paralyzing virus called Melissa racing through the Internet. His pursuit through cyberspace to New Jersey by the FBI and America Online was an uncanny echo of *The Matrix*'s opening scenes, which, even then, with mind-boggling parache, were blasting their way into general release.

Smith could get 40 years in prison, but unless he is very unlucky, he won't have his mouth digitally sealed by cyborg agents dressed like the Blues Brothers. Nor will a mechanical scorpion bore its way into his belly button as his entire understanding of reality is upended and rebuilt in a grimy rebel battleship fleeing from dastardly machines in a world where humans are trapped in slime and plundered for "bioelectricity". This is what happens to Keanu Reeves in his first decent thriller since *Speed*.

The only advance clue that *The Matrix* might be any good was the fact that it was directed by Andy and Larry Wachowski, who made *Bound* in 1996. Brothers are all the rage as film-making teams — to wit the Coens, the Farrellys and now, in London, the Butterworths — and *Bound*, full of black leather and lesbian lust, proved a cult hit with the lesbian and gay crowd. Otherwise *The Matrix* did itself no favours with its marketing. With a desperately high-concept title and billboards that looked like advertisements for bikini gear and semi-automatic weapons, it seemed designed to pull in a few bored male adolescents but deter all grown-ups. They should not be put off.

Philosophically, *The Matrix* starts by pulling apart "I think, therefore I am" and replacing it, in an age of virtual hyper-reality about 100 years hence, with "I think I am, but I'm not sure any more". Such is Reeves's initial, terrifying suspicion, gleaned from sleepless nights spent hacking into the rebel (ie, human) underworld. He is right, of course. Everything he thought was real is virtual, fed to him and millions like him through data uplinks in the backs of their necks by a grotesque artificial intelligence that took over the planet in the middle of the 21st century. Steaks, jobs, nightclubs and even dreams are all digital. Real reality is the grim but noble struggle to win back freedom for humanity.

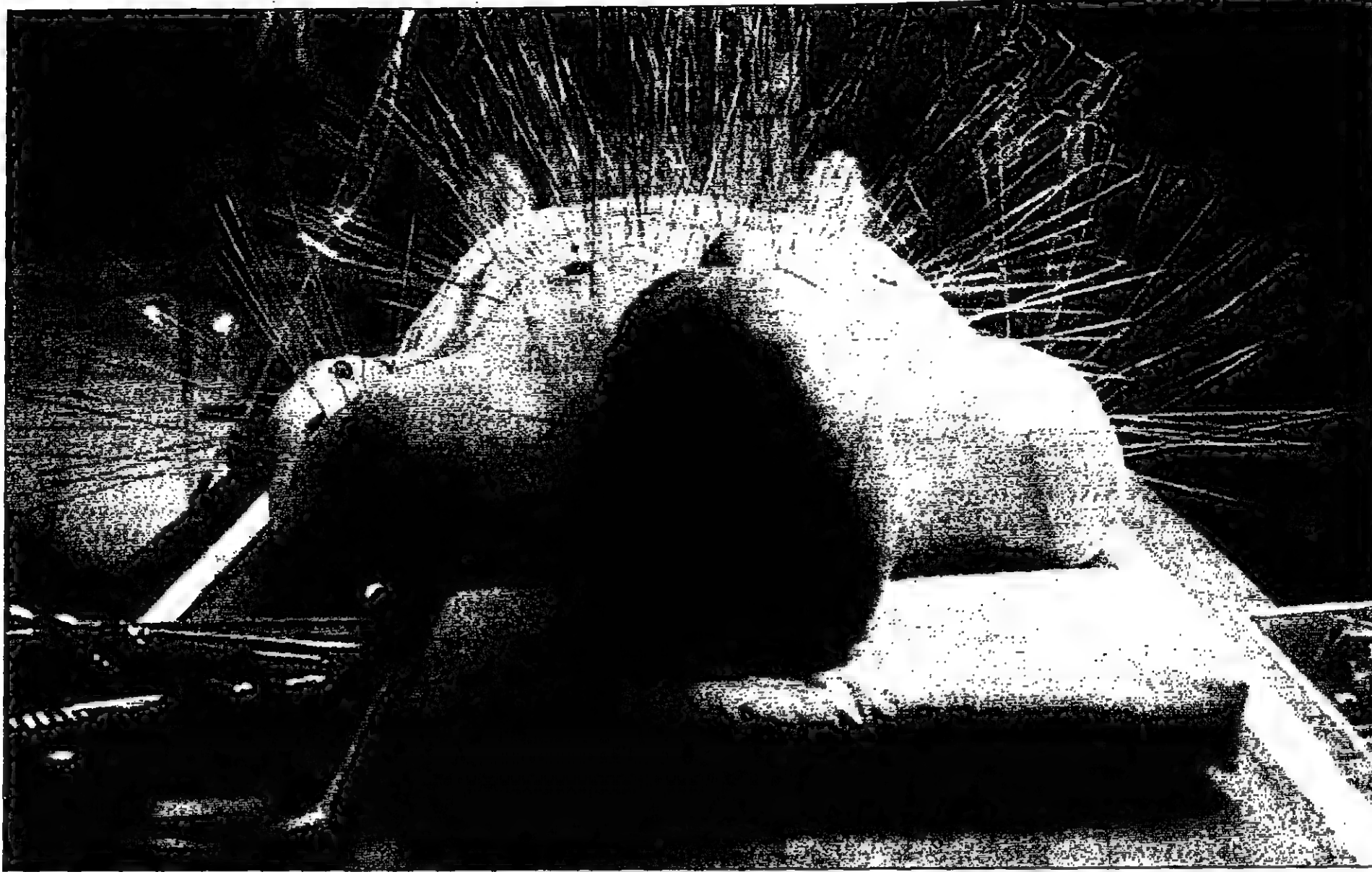
There is plenty of pseudo-scientific claptrap here. The dialogue, as *Daily Variety* noted,



is drenched in a "pretentious mumbo-jumbo of undergraduate mythology, religious mysticism and technobabble". But at least you have to think, which is a huge bonus in a film that will be remembered mainly for its staggering visual effects. *The Matrix* boasts enough squid-like robots and gothick futurism to satisfy sci-fi purists, but where it pushes the envelope is with the human form. Reeves and Co spent three months training with a Hong Kong-based "wire fighting" expert and then surrendered their images to what the production notes call "bullet-time photography" — the computerised equivalent of super-slow motion shot at 12,000 frames per second. The resulting kung fu and shootout sequences have people stopping bullets and leaping between tall buildings without so much as a magic cape. Superman should look to his laurels.

"Unfortunately no one can be told what the matrix is," Laurence Fishburne intones as the captain of the rebel crew. "You have to see it for yourself." The same goes for the film. In technical terms it picks up where *Terminator 2* left off, and generally ups the ante for the next instalment of *Star Wars*.

Almost incidentally, *The Matrix* also proves at last that Reeves is more than a one-hit wonder. Like Fishburne, who is still busy explaining plot details a full hour into the proceedings, he holds his own in the face of the special effects by acting as little as possible and without a trace of self-parody. The only real performance here is by Hugo Weaving, who, as a relentless villain with bad skin and yellow teeth, is given plenty of time to establish his credentials as Hollywood's new Tommy Lee Jones. And the only real quibble is with the damp squib role given to Carrie-Anne Moss. She looks terrific in a black catsuit, and she can run and jump and fall down as well as any of the rebels. Towards the end the question of which of them will save the world arises, and she could have been a contender. Instead she just gives Reeves a revivifying kiss. A lack of female assertiveness is one complaint that cannot be made of *The Out-of-Towners*, an egregiously unoriginal vehicle for Steve Martin and Goldie Hawn that Paramount must have hoped would not be competing for *The Matrix*'s audience. It certainly looks made for ageing baby-boomers, with Martin and Hawn praffalling mindlessly from Ohio to Central Park in nice cashmere coats, and Hawn proving the tough-



Getting the point: Keanu Reeves falls foul of humankind's 21st-century technological masters in the Wachowski brothers' *The Matrix*. "Reeves's first decent thriller since *Speed*"

er cookie in a crisis. This is an unnecessary remake of a not terribly good 1970 original. Its American stars are watchable enough losing their heads in airports and hire cars, but they are undermined by a script whose premise is not so much out of town as out of date; New York is simply no longer scary, even to luddites.

Martin and Hawn are also comprehensively upstaged by our very own John Cleese. He has seven minutes of screen time as a hideously unctuous Manhattan hotel manager, and they hint tantalisingly at what might have become of Basil Fawlty had Cleese not tired of writing his lines. So how about it? Fawlty hits New York! Takes on the Matrix! You saw it here first.

www.whatisthematrix.com

### US WEEKEND BOX-OFFICE TAKINGS AND ANALYSIS

1	(3) <i>The Matrix</i> (Warner)	\$27.6m
2	(1) <i>10 Things I Hate About You</i> (Touchstone)	\$2.7m
3	(4) <i>The Out-of-Towners</i> (Paramount)	\$2.1m
4	(2) <i>Analyze This</i> (Warner)	\$6.3m/\$69.3m
5	(1) <i>Forces of Nature</i> (DreamWorks)	\$6.3m/\$26.8m
6	(3) <i>Edwy</i> (Universal)	\$4.5m/\$5.3m
7	(6) <i>Shakespeare in Love</i> (Miramax)	\$3.3m/\$79.3m
8	(5) <i>Boyz n the City</i> (Walt Disney)	\$3.1m/\$4.5m
9	(8) <i>Life is Beautiful</i> (Miramax)	\$2.8m/\$40.1m
10	(4) <i>The Hot Chick</i> (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer)	\$2.4m/\$6.1m

First amount is estimated weekend takings, April 3-4. Second amount is total takings to March 20. Figure in brackets indicates last week's position.

● New releases dominate this week's chart. The low-budget teen movie *10 Things I Hate About You*, an update of Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, has jumped in at the No 2 spot behind *The Matrix*, while *The Out-of-Towners*, a remake of the classic 1970 comedy, is at No 3

**MUSIC: Hilary Finch on the South Bank concert tomorrow which will boost a cancer campaign**



Peter Jablonski: aiding the Everyman cancer appeal

The Swedish pianist Peter Jablonski first met a double-bass player called Thomas Croxon when they were students together at the Royal College of Music. Both had quite a career ahead of them: Jablonski as a pianist who would tour North America and Japan four times before he was 30; Croxon as a freelance double-bass much in demand by the Philharmonia, London Symphony and BBC orchestras. Neither of them was to know that in October 1997 Croxon's career was to be stopped in its tracks by the onset of testicular cancer.

While ill in St Bartholomew's Hospital, Croxon noticed that *The Times* was running an appeal for the Institute of Cancer Research's Everyman campaign to set up Britain's first dedicated Male Urological Research Centre. "When I got better," Croxon says, "I just wanted to do something to

## You need friends

honour the doctors who looked after me. Chemotherapy can often affect high-tone hearing, and my specialist was very aware of how this might affect me as a musician. And I felt that this particular appeal would enable me to use the voice of music to thank him, and to spread the word further to raise the profile of male cancer research."

It just so happened that, at exactly that time, Croxon had turned on his radio in hospital and heard a rather remarkable performance of Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata*. The pianist was Vladimir Ashkenazy. Croxon's first week back at work took him on tour with Ashkenazy, and he asked him if he would conduct the gala fund-raising concert he was plotting. Croxon then remembered that his old college friend, Jablonski, had recorded Gershwin's Piano Concerto with Ashkenazy, and the deal was struck. Tomorrow, both musicians will donate their fees from their Festival Hall concert to the appeal.

The Gershwin concerto fuses a jazz musician's free-wheeling exuberance with the more formal disciplines of a concert pianist on his best behaviour. And that sort of fusion is very much what makes Jablonski the musician he is. His first public performance was with a jazz band at the age of six: he went for the drums, "and I guess I still have the rhythm." The piano moved centrestage for Jablonski when he came to London to study at the RCM in 1988. And Ashkenazy had already spotted him and asked if he could conduct his recording of the Gershwin.

Jablonski went on to make his name with Tchaikovsky, with Rachmaninov, with Scriabin. "As a young pianist you are constantly asked to play the heroic, romantic repertoire," But slowly, privately, he has been focusing on Beethoven, learning the concertos out of the spotlight before daring to approach the Third Concerto with the Royal Philharmonic and Daniele Gatti next year.

For Croxon, it's business as usual: he will be back playing in the company of his old Philharmonia friends in Bernstein, Gershwin and Rostropovich tomorrow. "The concert will close one chapter of my life, and open another one. And it really will be for everyone. There will be many people in the audience who won't have been to a concert before. I'm so excited about that."

● Music for Everyman gala concert, Festival Hall, tomorrow at 7.30pm (0171-960-4242)

**ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE**  
**Othello**  
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE  
Previews from 9 April Opens on 21 April

**SWAN THEATRE**  
World Premiere  
**Tales from Ovid**  
TED RUBIES  
IN A NEW ADAPTATION BY THE SWAN THEATRE  
Previews from 9 April Opens on 20 April  
THIS PRODUCTION IS SPONSORED BY THE SWAN THEATRE

**THE OTHER PLACE**  
World Premiere  
APPROX 1990s  
**Oroonoko**  
IN A NEW ADAPTATION BY NICK HARRIS  
Previews from 7 April Opens on 28 April  
THIS PRODUCTION IS SPONSORED BY RSC PLAYERS' COMPANY MEMBERS

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON BOX OFFICE 01789 295623

### BUILDING A LIBRARY

A guide to the best classical CDs, in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

**■ MOZART'S PIANO CONCERTO NO 21**  
Reviewed by Colin Lawson  
MOST people still associate this wonderful concerto with Bo Widerberg's 1967 film *Ethra Madigan*. Its story-line revolves around a chronicle of hopeless love, complemented by the wistful Romantic qualities of Mozart's slow movement, with its muted pizzicato strings, murmuring accompaniment and seamless flow of melody. But the outer movements of this concerto are also truly inspired, with some remarkable contrasts of mood and content.

Mozart completed the work in March 1785, during an amazingly busy period of teaching, giving concerts and entertaining his father in Vienna. We can only speculate on the qualities of Mozart's own playing, though something of the original sound is recreated on Malcolm Bilson's recording for DG Archiv on a copy of the composer's own fortepi-

ano. On this disc the delicate sound of the solo instrument is not quite balanced by the powerful forces of John Elliot Gardiner's English Baroque Soloists.

Another type of balance problem emerges in certain older recordings made with full symphony orchestras by pianists such as Clifford Curzon, Artur Schnabel and Rudolph Serkin. One of the most poetic of vintage recordings is the highly recommendable version by Annie Fischer and the Philharmonia, recorded in 1959.

Mozart's piano concertos represent one of the most competitive areas in the marketplace, and there has been a veritable avalanche of recordings during the past 20 years. An

drás Schiff on Decca brings a subtle freedom to the music and there are also eloquent readings from Murray Perahia and Mitsuko Uchida. I was especially drawn to Alfred Brendel for the sheer range of intellect and emotion he brings to the music. His playing somehow reminds me that one of Mozart's closest friends reckoned that a well-trained musician needed to be versed in the whole of worldly wisdom and mathematics, poetry, elocution, art and languages. But for the warmth and clarity of a modern digital recording, with finely modulated wind playing complementing an extrovert soloist, I warmly recommend as first choice Maria João Pires, with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe under Claudio Abbado (Deutsche Grammophon 439 941-2, £15.99). Pires remains alert to all the theatrical aspects of the music, proving herself a true virtuoso throughout the concerto. Above all she has the ability to move her audience.

● To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREE-POST, SCO681, Forbes, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk. Next Saturday on Radio 3 (11am): Poulenc's Concerto for Organ Strings and Timpani

EN  
O

"This is ENO at its very, very best, vividly focused, dramatically direct...not to be missed"

Alexander Waugh, Evening Standard

April 7 | 16 | 20  
at 8.00pm  
April 10 at 6.30pm  
Sung in English  
Tickets from £5 - £55  
English National Opera  
at the London Coliseum  
St Martin's Lane WC2

Box Office  
0171 632 8300  
ENO

Richard Strauss  
**Salome**



# Modernism's missing link

**VISUAL ART:** In Leeds John Russell Taylor admires afresh the vision of the Polish artist Katarzyna Kobro

The biggest gallery of the Henry Moore Institute in Leeds is a luminous white box, a cube extended upwards and able to receive a blaze of natural light filtered down from above. Usually one is not conscious of this, since the floor space is often compartmented, its lighting moderated. But at the moment, hanging as it were in the midst of this white void, are a group of sculptures, all of them abstract and several painted in simple, primary, De Stijl colours. In fact, they only appear to be suspended: they are actually standing on translucent plastic stands very much like those designed by their artist more than half a century ago as the ideal support for her sculptures.

The artist is Katarzyna Kobro. Twentieth-century art history seems to be full of supposedly key figures of whom no one has ever heard, but it cannot be denied that Kobro is a major discovery outside Poland. Or, in England, strictly speaking a major rediscovery, since she and her artist husband Vladislav Strzemiński have cropped up in mixed British exhibitions, most recently in Anneli Juda's 1993 show *Couples*, celebrating pairs of married artists: the Delaunays, the Arps, Ben Nicholson and Barbara Hepworth, Jackson Pollock and Lee Krasner, Kobro and Strzemiński. But there has never, anywhere, been a comprehensive solo retrospective devoted to Kobro, and that now staged in Leeds presents her and her art in a wholly new perspective.

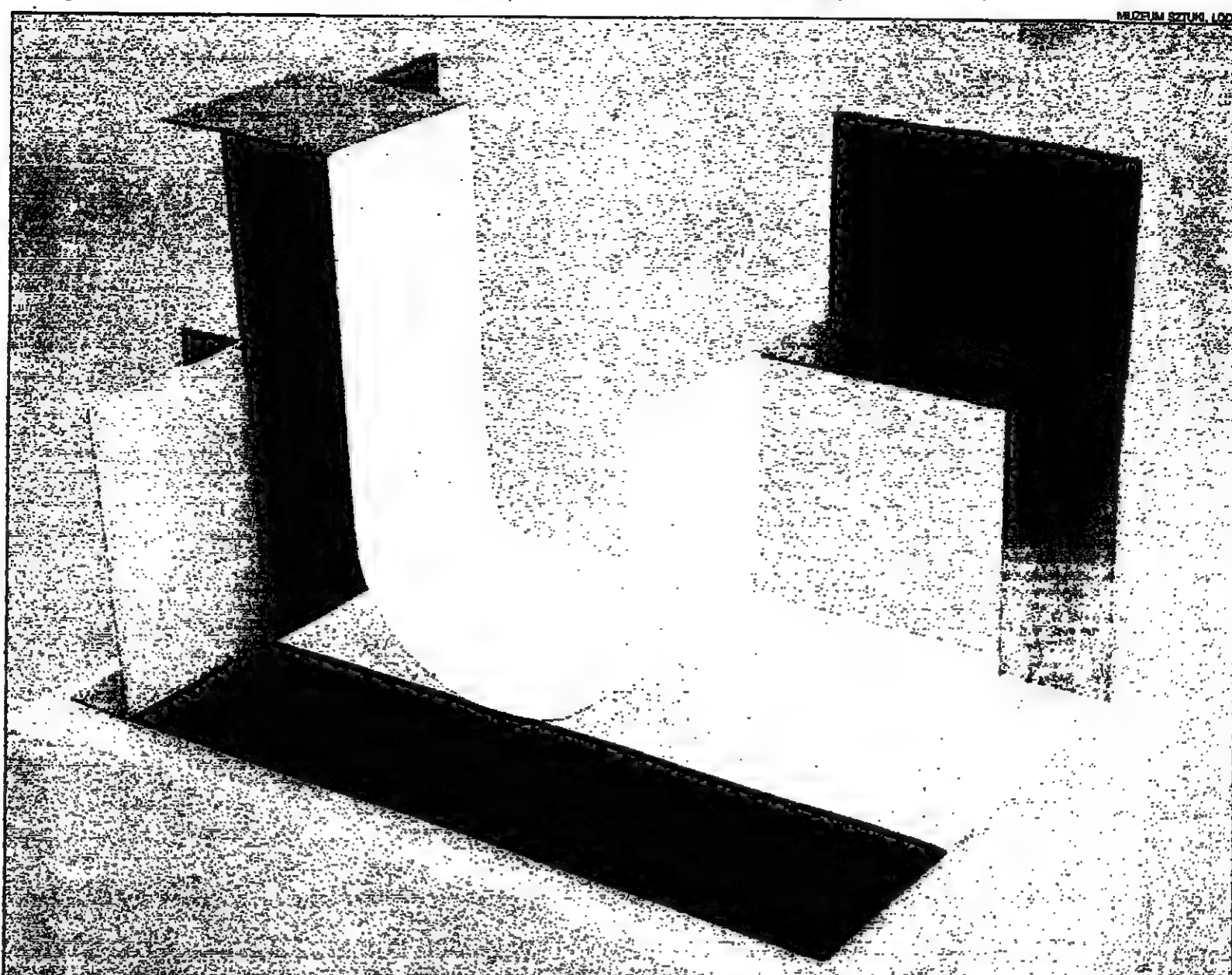
**'She has become a hot tip in movers and shakers'**

The show is arranged in collaboration with the Muzeum Szuki in Lodz, which now incorporates the first museum in the world devoted to abstract art, founded by Kobro and Strzemiński in the Thirties. It is through the determination of the museum, and of Kobro's daughter, that her fame has been kept alive since her death in 1951 — both by the conservation and judicious exhibition of the surviving works, and by, more recently, the meticulous reconstruction of works lost or partially destroyed during the difficult days of the German occupation and the war, when they were kept in her tiny Lodz flat.

The 25 works shown in Leeds, a handful of them present only in photographs of lost originals which do not contain enough information to allow reconstruction, constitute virtually the entire corpus of Kobro's work now in existence.

What, then, is so important about Kobro, that she has become the world's hottest tip for reinstatement in the pantheon of makers and shakers of modern art?

Partly the importance is historical: she is the vital link between Constructivism in Russia and Modernist Abstraction in Central Europe. Kobro was born in Russia in 1898, and received her art training in Moscow, becoming a close associate of Malevich and Tatlin in their first experimental work with non-representational form. In 1916 she met Strzemiński in a military hospital, where she was working



*Spatial Composition 4 (1929)* by Katarzyna Kobro, who was the vital conduit through which Modernism developed independently in Central Europe

as a nurse and he had been placed after being wounded. They married in 1922, finding the atmosphere of Russia by then increasingly restrictive, resettled in Poland, in Strzemiński's native Lodz. Throughout the years between the wars they both worked intensively for modern art, writing, showing their own work and teaching: Kobro taught applied arts in an industrial training school for women, as well as working in architecture and the theatre. She was the conduit through which a sort of Modernism parallel to that of De Stijl in Holland developed independently in Central Europe, and continued to take hold even after it had been completely rooted out in Stalinist Russia.

This is important. But even more important now is the singular purity and beauty of the work itself. The hanging mobiles continue to move gracefully in the slightest breeze, the

stables (as Calder would have called them) occupy their own space with curved and rectilinear shapes which radiate at once dynamism and tranquillity. The later work develops according to an intricate mathematical system of proportions which she evolved for herself, based ultimately on the Golden

Section. It was clearly a tragedy for art that motherhood and the coming of war forced Kobro to give up serious work. But what does exist is truly magical.

Henry Moore Institute, 74 The Headrow, Leeds (0113 234 3158), daily 10am-5.30pm (Wed to 9pm), until June 27

## Top talent on tap

With multiple opera commissions and recent West End representation via *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Doctor Dolittle*, Aletta Collins is at the top of the independent dance-makers' ladder. Stephen Hughes, meanwhile, is clambering up it. Both were showcased last week at The Place Theatre, as part of London's Spring Loaded dance festival.

Hughes's trio of works for his Red Rain Dance Theatre secures his spot in the "watch this space" category. *Hado-Scerie* observes four young people indulging in a game of dice. Gradually, as booze erodes inhibitions, their initial, post-juvenile behaviour (flashes of flesh, same-sex kisses) slides toward deeper, darker waters. The piece winds up suggesting, rather than revealing, the quarter's more dangerous undercurrents of fantasy, aggression and intimacy, but there is a convincing texture to the on-stage relationships of Hughes, Stephen Berkeley-White, Desiree Kongerød and Sine Nilsen.

Where Raging Fires Meet embroils all five

### DANCE

dancers in a set-to between an exhausted woman and a proprietorial male. Although the dance gets lost up a blind alley of dramatised abstractions, it shows that Hughes is gifted. Mastery of form should follow.

The bill was rounded out by *Here Comes Renard*, a barnyard battle-of-the-sexes sprung from Stravinsky's 1915 "burlesque tale in song and dance", *Renard*. Imbued with the rough precocity of youth, this jape of a dance underlines Hughes's interest in character and group dynamics. Cast as chickens and foxes, members of Scottish Ballet kept the fur and feathers flying.

The starting point of Collins's double-bill was her kinetic response to the energy coursing through 20th-century American music. Leonard Bernstein's *Prelude, Fugue and Riffs* percolated beneath the solo *Certain Obsessions*. Collins brought brash confidence to this throwaway comic piece to a performer's cheesy neuroses.

In *Allice is Back in Wonderland*, a free-form and humorous spin-off from Lewis Carroll, Collins made fizzy use of Gershwin's glorious *Rhapsody in Blue*. Her cohorts were the statuesque redheads Anna Williams and Ragnhild Olsen, and Rachel Krichie, shortish and brunette like Collins. Resembling a young Woody Allen, complete with spectacles, Krichie lent riveting authority and superb timing to the central role. But the others, Collins included, were no slouches. With its stop-go rhythms, her choreography was consistently light and ingenious. Alastair Grabner's cool, aqueous lighting and Jackie Gallows's airy white pyjama costumes helped to make this one of the most delightful dances in recent memory.

DONALD HUTERA

Richard Cork turns over the glossy new leaves of a coffee-table crop of lavishly illustrated spring books for art-lovers

## Collected works that speak volumes

Under Neil MacGregor's directorship, the National Gallery is flourishing as never before. And to complement the excellence of its shows, display and acquisitions, the gallery is publishing a superb series of catalogues devoted to different aspects of its collection. Its latest volume, *The 15th-Century Netherlands* (National Gallery, £55), may sound dry, but the book is a visual delight, backing the author Lorne Campbell's profound scholarship with excellent colour plates.

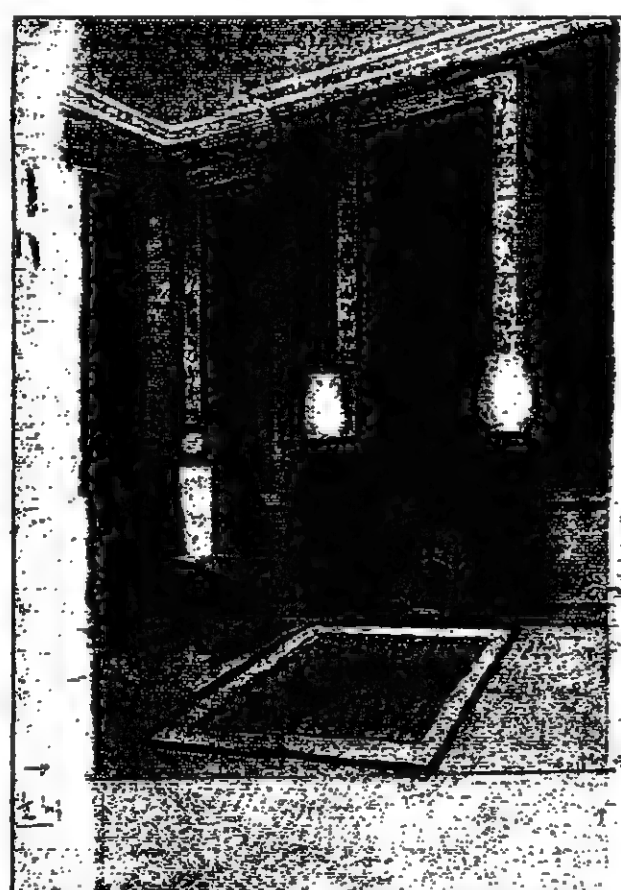
It serves to underline just how many outstanding Netherlands paintings from this crucial period are owned by the gallery, even if Campbell is unafraid to demote several familiar images. Often regarded as a masterpiece by Robert Campin, *The Virgin and Child before a Firescreen* has "many incongruities" and may be "a highly sophisticated pastiche based on several Campinesque prototypes". But the secure authorship of many other pictures is reinforced at length — not least the great Jan van Eyck portrait of Arnolfini and his wife, whose miraculous intensity is revealed in a wealth of detail.

Our national collections are equally rich in paintings produced in the southern Netherlands during the 17th century. Both Rubens and Van Dyck were prized by Charles I, and many of their canvases remain in this country. But Hans Vlieghe, in his comprehensive survey of Flemish Art and Architecture 1585-1700 (Yale, £50), redresses the balance. He places these two masters firmly in the context of their nation's culture, encompassing not only painters as substantial as Jacob Jordaens but a wealth of lesser-known names. The result is constantly illuminating, not least for Vlieghe's discussion of notable sculpture and architecture often overlooked in Britain.

Discoveries also abound in Sybille Ebert-Schifferer's magisterial *Still Life: A History* (Abrams, £79.95). Rooms full of flower paintings in museums can seem dull, but the truth is that still life has prompted some of the finest achievements in Western art. Ebert-Schifferer takes an admirably wide view, showing how the subject began in classical images of "hospitality gifts" and was then rediscovered during the Renaissance period. Hans Memling's exquisite *Ma-*

*Jolice Vase with Flowers* is a pioneering example, but other northern artists such as Barthel Bruyn soon began to explore the darker, mortality-obsessed world of the vanitas. Skulls appear, and in succeeding centuries the concern with death runs hand in hand with a desire to celebrate the natural world. Often the two impulses unite: Caravaggio's *Boy with Fruit* looks luscious, but signs of decay are detectable on closer scrutiny. Even in David Hockney's 1983 *Still Life with Book on a Table*, the most recent painting here, attractiveness is countered by a sense of vulnerability.

Tired to coincide with the National Gallery's current survey of Ingres portraits, Aileen Ribeiro's *Ingres in Fashion* (Yale, £30) offers an excellent accompaniment to the show. Any suspicion that the book might trivialise a great painter is quickly scotched by the searching intelligence of Ribeiro's text. She reveals how seriously Ingres approached the task of depicting the fashionable woman, and how much attention he paid to their clothes. The magnificent illustrations close in on details with such sensuous clarity that readers may well feel impelled to pay



Nina Hammett's 1916 oil sketch of an Omega room from Tanya Harrod's *The Crafts in Britain in the 20th Century*

the exhibition a second visit. A more elegant note is sounded by Robert Gordon's and Andrew Forge's *The Last Flowers of Maest* (Abrams, £7.95), for these deceptively beguiling little paintings, each concentrating on a few blooms

in a glass vessel, were executed by a dying man. Probably suffering from body-wasting syphilis, Maest was just over 50 when the fatal illness began to erode his strength. Hence the modesty of these canvases, swift studies of bouquets often

sent by concerned friends. Most are surprisingly buoyant, but *Flowers in a Crystal Vase* does look dispirited as the petals struggle to emerge from the encircling darkness.

The spirit of Modernism at its most optimistic is evoked in Matthew Gale's and Chris Stephens's *Barbara Hepworth* (Tate Gallery, £35), a scholarly and splendidly illustrated catalogue of the Tate's unrivalled collection of her work. During the interwar period, when she came to maturity in London, hopes were high for integrating adventurous modern art and architecture with a new society. Many of her finest carvings date from that heady period, before the war drove her to Cornwall. But she soon found ample inspiration in her new surroundings. Some of the finest colour plates show how her sculpture seems at one with the flowers and plants springing from the fecund Cornish soil.

Hepworth herself appears, dressed as the sun and moon at a Penwith Society party, in Tanya Harrod's *The Crafts in Britain in the 20th Century* (Yale, £45). But Bernard Leach, seen in the same photograph, rightly plays a far more important role in Harrod's text. Her book is a formidable achievement: the first to encompass the full richness and variety of the crafts from before the First World War right up to the late 1980s. She traces an interaction with so-called fine art throughout, most notably in the multifaceted work of Eric Gill and the interiors designed by members of Roger Fry's Omega Workshop. Nina Hammett's oil sketch of an Omega room, published in 1917, shows how Duncan Grant's marquetry tray and

Fry's chair combine with the severely abstract wall paintings to produce an adventurous unity. Crafts nevertheless deserve to be studied in their own right, and Harrod does their history full justice throughout a volume enlivened by more than 500 illustrations. They embrace everything from William Morris's gold, leather-tooled copy of Karl Marx's *Le Capital* to Jacqueline Poncet's ebullient clay and enamel creature, half human, half animal, and bristling with vitality.

Anyone wanting to revisit the most notorious art-world controversies of the past half-century can now consult John A. Walker's *Art & Outrage* (Phaidon, £14.99). All the eruptions are here, from Alfred Munnings's splenetic attack on the avant-garde at the Royal Academy banquet to Marcus Harvey's vilified portrait of Myra Hindley in the *Sensation* exhibition. The British appetite for excoriating modern art is so voracious that Walker has no difficulty filling his book with venomous assaults by hysterical commentators.

New buildings can arouse equally acrid passions, and Daniel Libeskind's brilliant proposal for an extension to the Victoria and Albert Museum has already provoked feverish denunciations. But his Jewish Museum in Berlin has now opened, and Bernhard Schneider's book (Prestel, £9.95) reveals its compelling impact. Splintered and punctured on the facade, it offers macabre voids internally. Libeskind has memorialised the Jewish tragedy in an eloquent yet uncompromisingly terse manner, producing a masterpiece of modern architecture right at the century's end.

## Fiddling with tradition

Reader, I tried. I wore my best green trousers. I approached the Barbican humming *Danny Boy*. But once Michael O'Suilleabháin, Celtic crossover king and Limerick university professor, struck up at the piano with the Irish Chamber Orchestra, I lost faith in the magic of Ireland. In pieces like *Woodbrook* and *Ah, Sweet Dancer*, usually elaborated from folk materials, his fingers flew daintily over the keyboard, jiggling along with jazz embroidery while the orchestra strings mooched through some pastoral chords. Sometimes the strings entered first, sometimes the piano: sometimes a guest artist tootled or bowed on flute or violin. It made little difference; this was an evening of music stranded and lost somewhere between the Irish pub and the hotel cocktail lounge.

The strange thing is that considerable erudition lies blanketed behind O'Suilleabháin's bland tinklings. At Limerick he runs the Irish World Music



Centre. He organises courses in, among other things, plainchant, music therapy and "ethnochoreology". He knows his classics along with his folk melodies; and has basked in the guiding light of Seán O Riada, masterly composer and grandfather to the Chieftains, who first opened his ears to Ireland's folk heritage. A few selections, like a movement from a reworked concerto for traditional musician (flautist Niall Keegan), drew strength from O'Suilleabháin's classical training. Mostly the drooping sounds left me yearning for a real Irish knees-up. Percy Grainger's brisk folk workouts, or perhaps total silence. The amplified sound made it hard to accurately judge the finesse of O'Suilleabháin's pi-

ano or the youthful ICO strings. Amplifiers also did strange things to other soloists. Máiread Ní Mhaonaigh, from the Altan folk group, scraped through on the violin. But the talents of New Zealand harmonica player Brendan Power became swallowed in the reverberations of his own composition, *Lament for the 21st Century*, a threadbare piece, while Keegan's flute often offered more breath than notes.

The most instructive guest artist, however, was Brian Kennedy, Belfast-born pop singer. When he sang intimately to his guitar, his qualities shone. However, when piano and orchestra kicked in behind him with *You Are That Kind of Person* and *Heart of Stillness*, two O'Suilleabháin songs, the voice lost its colour in falsetto somersaults, ungainly bleats, and the strain of singing terrible words. A good night for the sale of Irish ale; a bad one for music.

GEOFF BROWN

## The Golden Plover — STAMFORD RAFFLES AND THE EAST

Adventures, travels and collecting in Southeast Asia

sponsored by Standard Chartered



Until 18 April 99

Mon-Sat 10-4.50

Sun 12-5.50

Admission £4

concessions £2

Advance booking

0870 840 1111

BRITISH MUSEUM

Great Russell Street

London WC1 011 353 8793

**Ensemble 99** NOW PREVIEWING OPENING 13 APRIL

music by Leonard Bernstein Richard Wilbur, additional lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

book adapted from Voltaire John LaRoche, John Hellman

in a new version by John Caird Dorothy Parker and Leonard Bernstein

Guaranteed to be handsomely supported by Tony and Gloria Blom

**NT** Royal National Theatre Box Office 0171-452 3000 www.rnt.org.uk







## LAW

هكذا من الاعمال



Cheryl Looth, QC, with Pamela Phelps after the High Court awarded Ms Phelps damages because her local education authority failed to spot her dyslexia

## Lost chances: who pays?

Anna Collins, an adoption administrator, has been struggling to get her 14-year-old dyslexic son, Andrew, a good education since he was at junior school. Her local education authority (LEA) in East London disagrees with an independent psychologist's assessment that the boy has organisational problems and suffers from the word and number blindness condition.

Andrew used to have tantrums and couldn't remember things properly. Ms Collins says, "After a started secondary school, he took him to the Dyslexia Institute, which diagnosed the condition."

The education authority eventually agreed to offer six hours a week of support on top of mainstream schooling, but after a few months, Ms Collins says, this broke down. There is now a dispute between the LEA and Mr Collins over what sort of schooling is appropriate. Ms Collins wants to take the education authority to court. "I'm like us have no choice," she says. "We can't afford to pay thousands of pounds a year for specialist schooling."

Yet as a law stands, even if an LEA psychologist or other professionals have been negli-

Many parents who seek special education for their children have to go to court. **Danny Lee reports**

gent in assessing a child's needs, the authority may not be held liable to pay compensation for lost chances in life. Jack Rabinowitz, a partner of Teacher Stern & Selby, says: "Hundreds of similar claims are waiting to go to court."

Mr Rabinowitz acts for Pamela Phelps, a 25-year-old dyslexic, who last November saw the Court of Appeal overturn the £46,650 damages the High Court had awarded her in a landmark ruling when she claimed that her local authority had been negligent for failing to identify her dyslexia. Her action, which is awaiting leave to appeal to the Lords, is the pivot on which all the other cases turn.

Meanwhile, the law has been left in a state of confusion. Mr Rabinowitz says: "I hope the House of Lords will clarify whether you can sue in these sorts of cases. But the other strand to this is the right to education under the Human Rights Act, which seems to suggest that even if the Lords say that people can't sue, under the Act they may be entitled to sue in any event."

Central to the reversal of the

High Court's decision was Lord Justice Stuart-Smith's ruling that the trial judge "had not asked himself whether [the psychologist] had voluntarily assumed responsibility for advising [Phelps] through her parents. Her duty was to advise the school and the local education authority. Merely because [Phelps] was the object of that advice and the parents were told what the advice was, did not amount to such an assumption of responsibility."

"The court ought to be slow to superimpose on a duty which the employee owed to his employer, a further duty towards the plaintiff, in the absence of very clear evidence, that the employee had undertaken such responsibility."

Ms Collins had been given hope by the High Court decision in the Phelps case in September 1997, a ruling that had broken new ground in finding that the educational psychologist employed by the local authority owed a duty of care to the pupil she assessed. Even if that decision is reinstated, people who have suffered from undiagnosed dyslexia will not automatically be able to sue. It is accepted across the board that dyslexia is a developing issue and schools cannot reasonably be expected to have always known about it.

John Morrell, a Vizards partner who mainly defends in such cases and acts for the LEA in the Phelps case, takes a pragmatic view. "Are we all going to be entitled to blame someone for what happened 20 or 30 years ago?" he says. He highlights another problem with liability in dyslexia and similar cases. "How can you establish that any failure on the educational psychologist's part led to loss?"

Establishing causation and quantifying loss should not prevent a person being able to make a claim, according to John Davis, a partner at Irwin Mitchell. He says: "In looking at the loss in general terms, dyslexia cases are no different from many other actions, such as medical negligence claims for failed surgery."

Mr Davis is acting for 19-year-old Hannah Dwyer, who is suing the £8,000-a-year

Workshop College for negligence in failing to recognise her dyslexia. He points out that although suing a fee-paying school introduces a contractual element into the claim, possibly avoiding the need to show a duty of care, the arguments about causation and the questions of what the person would have become had the dyslexia been properly dealt with remain the same. The Phelps case will, therefore, be highly significant for Ms Dwyer.

Although it will be even more relevant to Ms Collins, it may be too late. She says: "We now have only 18 months left for Andrew to make up for seven years."

E-mail: lawpage@the-times.co.uk

## Silk should not be cut but overseen by the Bar

On Maundy Thursday the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, made his annual announcement of which lawyers have been promoted to the rank of Queen's Counsel. There are few more pleasurable moments in a barrister's career than appointment as a QC. And there are few more dismal experiences than opening a letter of rejection from the Lord Chancellor. But whether or not they have been awaiting judgment on their application, lawyers are finding it increasingly difficult to justify a system by which distinction in a profession is determined by a government minister.

Each year about 500 barristers (and a few solicitors who specialise in advocacy) apply to be made a QC (or to "take silk"). About 70 applicants are successful, receiving letters patent confirming that they are "learned in the law" and conferring the right to sit in the front row in court. There may be other incidental benefits: the 1979 Royal Commission on Legal Services suggested that "some support their applications for silk with medical certificates emphasising the need for a reduction in their workload".

Sir William Holdsworth explained in *A History of English Law* that Elizabeth I appointed the first Queen's Counsel, including Francis Bacon, to assist the attorney-general in giving legal advice to the monarch. During the 18th century, serving as a Queen's (or King's) Counsel became, as Lord Watson suggested in a Privy Council judgment in 1897, "in the nature of an honour or dignity", a recognition of "professional eminence". In 1920 the last remaining historical link with the original purpose of the honour was removed: a KC no longer had to obtain permission before accepting a brief to appear against the Crown. Today the only link with the monarch is that newly appointed silks are invited to a royal garden party at Buckingham Palace.

The system of appointment of silks has been greatly improved in recent years. Decisions are no longer made by reference to irrelevant factors, as at the beginning of the 19th century when Lord Eldon is said to have delayed the appointment of Brougham and Denham because they had acted for Queen Caroline. The procedure has been made more open, with wider consultation, and with published criteria for selection, so removing some of the more objectionable features of a system memorably described in 1992 by the then Chairman of the Bar, Gareth Williams. QC (now Lord Williams of Mostyn, a minister in the Home Office), as

based on "the Franz Kafka school of business management".

Mistakes are still made, both in appointing unworthy candidates and in rejecting meritorious applicants. Happily, however, the Lord Chancellor's Department (LCD) has avoided any repetition of the 1993 disaster when two counsel with the same surname applied for silk, one was successful and one unsuccessful, and each was sent the letter intended for the other.

Andrew Dismore, a Labour MP, is leading a campaign to abolish the rank of Queen's Counsel. He contends that it is an "anachronistic distinction" that serves only to "give lawyers more money" at public expense, because it is the State that pays the cost of administering the appointments system. There are no "Queen's Dentists", so why should there be Queen's Counsel?

Lawyers, and the public, should oppose any suggestion of abolishing a mark of expertise that assists solicitors and clients to identify those barristers who are capable of handling the more difficult cases and that helps the LCD when assessing candidates for judicial office. Mr Dismore's complaint that some of those chosen are not up to the job simply recognises the universal truth that any system which depends on human judgment will inevitably involve mistakes — even, on rare occasions, in the selection of MPs. Concern about the higher fees charged by QCs ignores the inevitability in a market economy that the best barristers will be in greater demand and will charge accordingly. As to Mr Dismore's complaint

about the expense of administering the system, the Bar Council has agreed in principle to bear that burden. Though the rank of QC should not be abolished, there is a strong case for removing the role of a government department in the making of appointments. The Bar values its independence. It is, then, difficult to justify a system by which promotion to a senior status is dependent on the advice of civil servants and the decision of a politician, however wide the consultation. The Bar itself should decide the relevant policies, criteria and procedures, and should create an appointments panel consisting of eminent lawyers and distinguished non-lawyers to determine which applications should be approved. The rank of Queen's Counsel could and should be replaced by a rank of Senior Counsel.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



David Pannick QC

## Employees under surveillance

The monitoring of staff needs regulation, says **Alison Clarke**

STREET surveillance and television monitoring shops are part of modern life. But when an employer uses such means to watch staff without their knowledge, the law surrounding it becomes murky.

In a recent case, Tom Spamer, the Union branch secretary at Leeds Metropolitan University, represented two cleaners and a security officer in disciplinary hearings after they were monitored by hidden cameras installed by the university. His members found out about the surveillance only after they were arrested and suspended from work for alleged drug dealing. Mr Spamer said that no evidence was found to support the allegations. He said the university said only that it "had used covert cameras on three occasions since they became available in 1995. On each occasion, they have been used after strong prima facie evidence of illegal activity on university premises and on two occasions on the advice of the police."

Such covert surveillance can damage working relationships, according to Mike Emmott, an employment adviser with the Institute of Personnel and Development. He is critical of employers who do not tell staff that they are being



Does new technology invade privacy?

watched... although most forms of electronic monitoring are legitimate.

In 1997 the European Court ruled that under the European Convention on Human Rights, Alison Halford, a senior police officer, had her right to privacy infringed by her employer's interception of private telephone calls that she made from her office.

But Michael Ford, a barrister who recently wrote a report on surveillance and

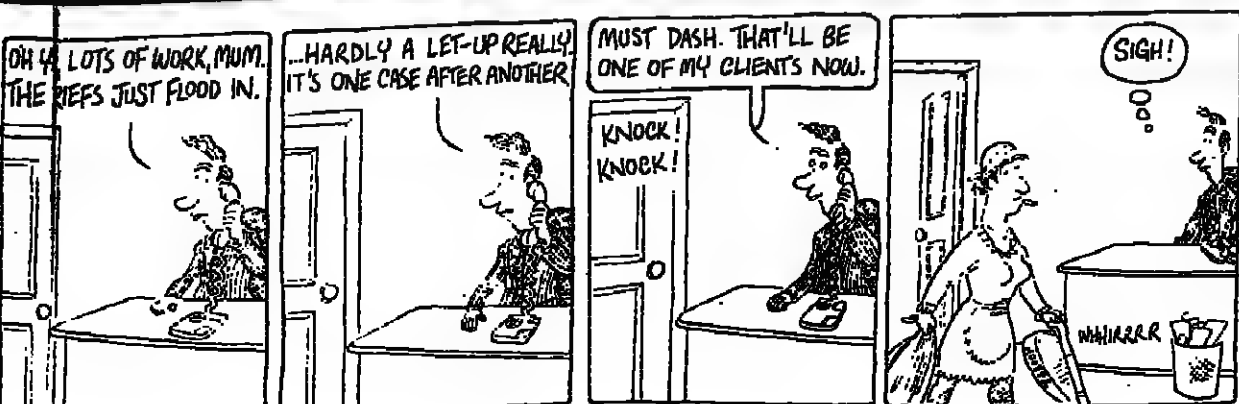
privacy at work for the Institute of Employment Rights, is sceptical about application of the Convention in the workplace. He says: "It would not be safe to rely on the incorporation of the [Convention] to offer protection against anything other than the most blatant forms of infringement of privacy at work, not least because the term 'privacy' is so ill-defined. The more workers are subject to constant intrusive surveillance, the harder it becomes to contend that they have a reasonable expectation of privacy."

The law cannot embrace all the issues to which surveillance may give rise. What is acceptable in one workplace — CCTV for the protection of transport workers, for example — might be intrusive in another. Despite these caveats, Mr Ford does not think that the law is generally powerless. "Legislation can address specific problems and specific practices which infringe aspects of autonomy," he says. "The Data Protection Act 1998 is a welcome example, extending the opportunities for workers and their unions to find out what information is being kept on them and how it is being used."

Collective bargaining is, Mr Ford contends, the best way of regulating surveillance with a little help from the law. But he believes that employers will continue to have a more or less unconstrained right to introduce new surveillance technologies in the workplace.

## QUEEN'S COUNSEL

Stewart &amp; Francis



## HOT CROSS LAWYER?

## MQ BANKING

To £35,000  
This top ten city firm is known for its outstanding commitment to training its junior banking lawyers. This is a rare opportunity to jump on board one of the most prestigious global firms and join their successful banking practice. If you are about to qualify and have enough experience in either banking/project finance/PII then this could be a step up for you. Ref: 61072

## PFI

To £50,000  
This UK major commercial practice, currently offering legal services to a wide range of national and international clients, is going great guns. It has developed an excellent PFI practice in London and is seeking to develop it further with the recruitment of an assistant, up to 4 years qualified. Ref: 18754

## SENIOR CORPORATE

To £70,000  
This boutique city firm boasts some of the best international work in the city. If you have a minimum of five years' experience and are looking for better prospects and a more dynamic and commercial environment then this firm is what you have been waiting for. Ref: 60623

## FINANCE

To £50,000  
This top ten city firm is continuing to grow its already established banking practice. If you have experience in either capital markets, project finance or acquisition finance and are tired of being pigeonholed or specialising then this firm will offer you the opportunity to gain a broad range of the work you really want to do. Ref: 39033

## EMPLOYMENT

To £50,000  
This top five practice has an outstanding employment law practice. If you are an exceptional employment lawyer with 2-4 years experience in this area and are interested in taking a step up then you must not let this one go by. Ref: 28392

## SHIP FINANCE

To £40,000  
You will have six months to three years experience in banking or shipping, particularly secured finance and leasing. This firm offers you the opportunity to work in London and then be seconded abroad and to work for a team where you will assist in preparation of business plans and direct marketing. Languages would be an advantage. Ref: 725580

## PROPERTY FINANCE

To £25,000  
This medium sized city firm offers its lawyers a healthy lifestyle as well as quality work. They are strong in all their core areas and are seeking to further grow their property finance practice. If you have approximately two to five years' post relevant experience and want to get off the treadmill of a larger institution then this might be the one for you. Ref: 60182

## US BANKING/SECURITIES PSL

To £80,000  
This is a great opportunity - to practice US law in one of the most respected, well established UK practices in the city. If you are a US qualified banking/finance lawyer, who is looking for a working environment that will offer some flexibility, then a professional support role in this team might well be for you. Ref: 27013

## TAX

To £70,000  
This truly global department of this well-known law firm is looking for tax lawyers/advisors with between one and four years experience to join them. Most of the work is multi-jurisdictional and excellent partnership prospects are on offer to candidates with intellectual self-confidence and problem solving skills. Ref: 730143

## CONSTRUCTION

To £50,000  
If you are a construction lawyer with 2-4 years post qualification experience then look no further. This top ten City firm has an excellent construction practice undertaking both contentious and non-contentious work. If you are looking for a broader role, this must be considered. Ref: 41329

## EMPLOYMENT/EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

To £70,000  
If you want to be somewhere where you are treated as integral to the team, look no further than the top five city firm which provides first class training and a dynamic and international practice. You will have between six months and five years experience. Ref: 748302

## COMPANY/COMMERCIAL

To £40,000  
A chance to work with lawyers who have all been at large practices but have sought more client focused and the more friendly environment of their current surroundings. You will do AIM & MBO work and your working hours will be reasonable. Ref: 762227

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Laura Pannick, Nick Shilton or Sarah David (all qualified lawyers) on 0171 405 6862 (fax) 302299 or 0171 355 7017 (evenings/weekends) or write to them at QD Legal

email: laurapannick@qdggroup.co.uk

shilton@qdggroup.co.uk

QD Legal

37-41 Bedford Row

London WC1R 4JH

Telex 0171 405 6062

Confidential fax 0171 531 6354

Web: www.qdggroup.com

London Birmingham Hong Kong

Leeds Manchester Paris Frankfurt Köln Rotterdam

Stockholm New York Washington DC Toronto Vancouver Sydney Melbourne Johannesburg

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD

QD







[illegible]











## THE FACTS

**P&O market capitalisation:** £5.762 billion.

**Sales:** £5.912 billion in 1998.

**Pre-tax profits:** £368.9 million in 1998.

**Overview:** P&O is a diversified business taking in ferries, cruises, ports and logistics, cargo shipping, construction and property. The group has recently announced a restructuring programme that will eventually limit it to the first three activities.

## THE BOARD

**Lord Sterling of Plaistow,** 64, chairman. Is an Elder Brother of Trinity House.

**Sir Bruce McPhail,** 59, managing director. An MBA of Harvard Business School. Formerly with Price Waterhouse and Hill Samuel.

**Tim Harris,** 51, assistant managing director since 1995, responsible for cruises and chief executive of P&O Nedlloyd.

**Graeme Dunlop,** 56, responsible for ferries.

**Michael Graddon,** 39, legal director and company secretary.

**Tim Harding,** 58, responsible for property activities.

**Richard Hain,** 63, chairman and managing director of P&O Australia.

**Sir Frank Lampi,** 72, chairman of Bovis.

**Nick Luff,** 32, the finance director.

**Peter Ratcliffe,** 51, president of Princess Cruises.

**Robert Woods,** 52, managing director of P&O Nedlloyd.

P&O's non-executive directors are:

**Lord Hambro,** 68, Senior non-executive director. Chairman of Guardian Royal Exchange and of the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses.

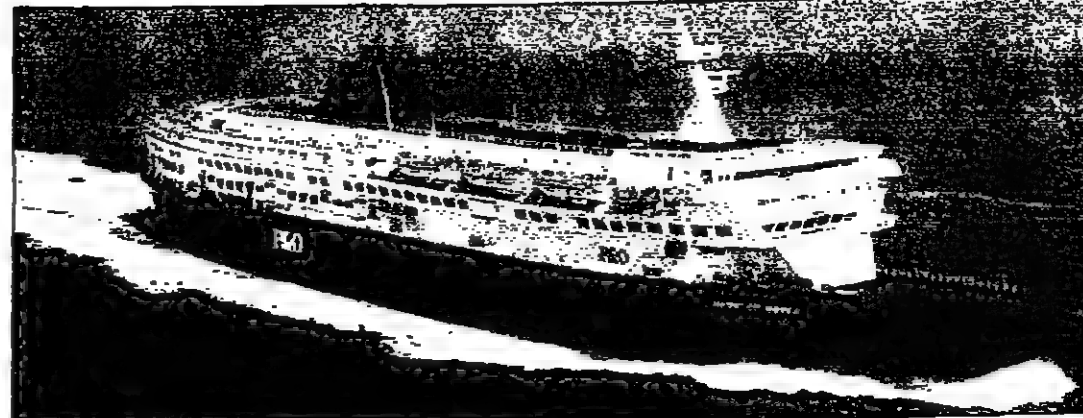
**Peter Fay,** 58, former managing director of McKinsey Co (UK) and former chairman of Baring Brothers International. Director of PepsiCo and of Omnicom.

**Rodney Galpin,** 67, Chairman of Alpha Airports, director of Capital Shopping Centres.

**Sir John Collins,** 57, Chief executive of the Vestey Group, non-executive chairman of National Power, non-executive director of NM Rothschild & Sons and of Stoll Moss Theatres. Director of the London Symphony Orchestra.

**Baroness Hogg,** 52, chairman, London Economics.

## CORPORATE PROFILE: P&amp;O



P&O, where Lord Sterling is chairman, is to return to its roots and concentrate on cruises, ferries, ports and logistics. On the disposal block are Bovis Construction, manager for the building of the new Glyndebourne Opera House, and the Earls Court Olympia exhibition centre, home of the Boat Show

sprawling for its own good, at a time when conglomerates were out of favour.

There was also criticism that Sterling and McPhail were insufficiently responsive to the views of big City shareholders. The shares were in the doldrums — they have underperformed the FTSE all-share index by 30 per cent over the past five years, not helped by the recession of the early 1990s, which hit industrial groups such as P&O, with its huge containerised shipping operations, especially hard.

On March 23 this year, when unveiling P&O's 1998 results, Sterling announced a return to its shipping roots. The property portfolio would be gradually sold, as would the Earls Court Olympia exhibition business — 43 acres of prime land in Central London, in the books at £180 million but worth, analysts suggest, nearer to £350 million. Alternatively, the UK investment property interests, with a book value of £650 million, could be demerged as a free-standing quoted property company.

P&O Nedlloyd, a joint venture half-owned by a Dutch shipping group in which P&O has £450 million tied up, would be floated, offering a possibility that P&O would sell all or part of its stake. The Bovis construction management business would also be floated, to follow Bovis Homes, which last year joined the stock market at £226 million.

P&O shares rose 5 per cent on news of this unbundling. The sale proceeds, even before anything from the Nedlloyd float, could total £2 billion. This would allow shareholders

who had stayed in while the shares were underperforming to be rewarded for their patience, possibly with a share buyback or a special dividend.

The disposals would slim P&O back to its three core businesses of ports, ferries and cruises, the last being by far the biggest, and would leave it with no borrowings. "That makes absolutely clear what the company is about," says Sterling. The new focus, it is hoped, will mean a rerating of the shares close to the high lev-

els, in some cases 25 times current earnings, enjoyed by "pure" shipping companies in the US and elsewhere.

All three core divisions earn 15 per cent return on capital employed. "Where's the company going?" asks Sterling. "When the mists of what's happening in the Far East start to clear, and some of them are starting to already, there will be an increase in world trade in years to come."

"This leads to creation of a massive increase in wealth in world terms. People have the time as well as the increased wealth and are spending it on travel. We are uniquely placed to take advantage of that."

Sterling refuses to be drawn on what P&O will do with the disposal proceeds not needed for investment in core activities. He says: "Once we've brought this in, we would have to look at whether the capital structure... would need to be addressed. Do you buy in shares? Could you give the money back to shareholders?" However, he insists that one big shareholder has already suggested that if P&O can keep investing and earning 15

per cent, it would sooner the company held onto the money.

The City's concern is not the wisdom of the proposed moves but the length of time they took to be decided on once it became clear that P&O was becalmed. There is also a question over what should happen to the property assets: property shares currently trade at a discount to assets. However, a gradual sale would take much longer to benefit investors than a demerger. It is, the stock market accepts, impossible yet to say which course would be best.

Sterling is unrepentant about the time taken to decide to return P&O to its maritime roots. In the 1990s recession, he says, P&O spent billions of pounds on the cruise business to compete with the best in the world. "It would have been impossible to do that without the real estate side — this was the bank that funded it," he said.

"The real estate side is no longer the essential it was in providing the streams of income needed. But we got no brownie points whatsoever for the success of the real estate division; even though it's helped us build the company, I don't

think it's made one jot of difference to our share price."

There remain some profits still to come from existing property developments, especially in the US. By book value, P&O has £1.1 billion in investment property and £30 million in sites to develop.

Sterling denies any disenchantment with the City, but says: "We're having to run the company and they are sitting where they are. We're just as disappointed in how the share price has been of late."

The problem, Sterling feels, is that P&O has disappointed before — this may help to explain why most analysts' break-up value exceeds its share price. In 1993 and 1994, P&O was seen as a recovery stock, a promise not fulfilled. "One isn't saying one hasn't made mistakes," Sterling says. "On the whole, one has enjoyed enormous support. We lost a certain amount for a while, though not that of our major shareholders. It looked as if we had lost a sense of direction."

However, he adds: "If you go back five years and think what the atmosphere was like... you would have been flogging off assets at half their present values."

At 64, Sterling might reasonably be thinking of retirement, especially after 16 years at the helm. However, he insists he will drive P&O into the next century. There are certainly no plans for a successor. "I don't think I'm decrepit yet," Sterling says. "Bruce McPhail is a superb managing director. The three key divisions are represented by senior directors on the board. The finance director is the youngest in the FTSE. The inner circle is all in place."

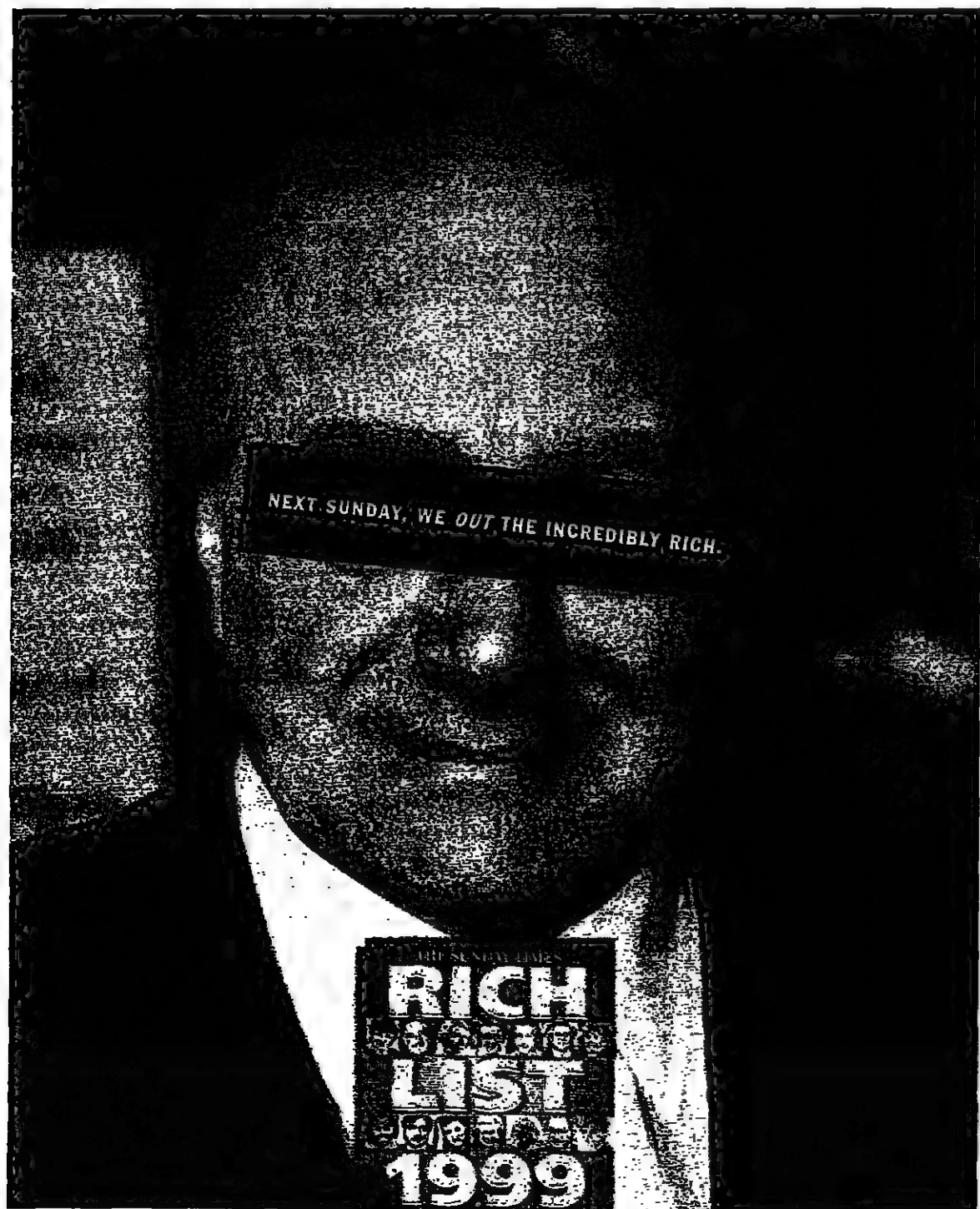
P&O scores well on executive pay, with Sterling's £1.1 million fitting for his experience and non-executive directors slightly underpaid, according to the Crisp consultancy. However, on ethical policy, Integrity Works questions whether business principles should be left to individual companies.

MARTIN WALLER

## OUR VERDICT

Ethical expression..... 5/10  
 Fat-cat quotient..... 8/10  
 Financial record..... 7/10  
 Share performance..... 5/10  
 Attitude to staff..... 8/10  
 Strength of brand..... 8/10  
 Innovation..... 7/10  
 Annual report..... 8/10  
 City star rating..... 7/10  
 Future prospects..... 8/10  
 Total..... 72/100  
 Ethical expression is evaluated by Integrity Works. The fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay practice scores highest, is provided by Crisp Consultancy.

## THE SUNDAY TIMES



**RICH LIST 1999**  
 BRITAIN'S RICHEST 1,000

THE SUNDAY TIMES is THE SUNDAY PAPERS

## Russia to reopen talks with IMF on foreign debt

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN MOSCOW

RUSSIAN officials will resume talks with the International Monetary Fund mission tomorrow as Moscow strives to secure the funding needed to meet foreign debt obligations of \$17.5 billion (£11 billion) this year.

Negotiations with the IMF are expected to last about two weeks and cover technical details of policies underpinning possible new IMF credits for Russia. The IMF mission follows a visit last week by Michel Camdessus, the IMF managing director.

Russia's talks with the IMF have made slow progress since last year's economic crisis torpedoed a previous loan programme.

Yevgeny Primakov, the Russian Prime Minister, says new IMF credits are essential for Russia to meet its foreign debt obligations.

The Government wants new IMF credits so that it can re-

pay about \$4.5 billion which it owes the Fund itself. IMF support will also open the door to restructuring talks with other creditors.

The IMF mission is expected to complete its work before a meeting of the Group of Seven industrial nations on April 24.

The G7 talks will take place in Washington during the spring meetings of the IMF and World Bank, but a decision on Russian credits by the IMF board is not expected until later.

In Moscow the IMF mission will first analyse preliminary information about Russia's first-quarter budget performance. Talks with the Finance Ministry will only begin on Friday when the mission will formulate its proposals and make comments on the information presented to it. The size of new credits will be discussed no earlier than next week.

## Unions welcome task force for manufacturing

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

UNIONS yesterday welcomed government plans to set up a high-level task force to champion the interests of manufacturing.

The establishment of a task force by Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, follows persistent criticism by industry of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee.

High interest rates, which have contributed to the strength of the pound against other leading currencies, have been blamed by manufacturers for the loss of thousands of jobs. Exports have suffered badly as British goods have been priced out of the market.

The task force, which will be constituted later this year, is expected to feature leaders of the Trades Union Congress and senior representatives from the Confederation of British Industry, the Engi-

neering Employers' Federation and the Chemical Industries Association. Its formation will be preceded by a summit meeting of union leaders and captains of industry.

Roger Lyons, general secretary of the MSF union, who is likely to be invited to join the task force, welcomed its formation. He said previous governments had ignored the plight of industry and excluded unions from the formulation of economic policy.

He said: "Establishing the task force is obviously not the end of manufacturing difficulties. The value of the pound and interest rates nearly double that of the eurozone are causing many companies serious problems. But it is a significant step in the right direction and shows the Government is serious about partnership in business."

## Fortune 500's seven-year hitch

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK

PROFITS of the Fortune 500 companies declined for the first time in seven years in 1998 as US companies suffered the effects of the economic crisis in Asia, Russia and Latin America.

Overall, profits for the 500 fell 1.8 per cent last year, compared with 7.8 per cent earnings growth in 1997, according to Fortune magazine's annual listing of the largest US public companies. Revenue growth shrank to 4 per cent from 8.7 per cent in 1997 as companies found demand for their products and services stifled by the continuing financial problems overseas.

While 1998 will not be remembered for its stellar profits, the magazine said, it will likely mark the beginning of the end of the dominance of blue chips such as General



Jack Smith saw GM retain top spot for the 11th year running

Motors and Coca-Cola. Younger companies, such as Microsoft, Cisco Systems and Dell are welding more influence in corporate America, Fortune said.

Fortune said that 1998 "will probably be considered a watershed year, the year when the

new economy fundamentally parted ways with the old and as the driving force behind the growth of big business."

GM, where Jack Smith is chairman and chief executive officer, remained No 1 on the list — which ranks companies according to revenue — for the eleventh year running. GM had \$161.3 billion in revenue, followed by Ford with \$144.4 billion, Wal-Mart with \$139.2 billion, Exxon with \$101.7 billion and General Electric with \$100.5 billion. Cisco jumped 61 places from 253 to 192, while Dell Computer shot up from 125th place to 78th.

Other high-tech companies that have become darlings of Wall Street recently have not yet made the list. While the stock prices of the online auctioneer eBay, Internet service provider AllHome and online bookseller Amazon.com have given them market capitalisations surpassing many Fortune 500 firms, they have yet to generate significant revenues, let alone profits. The company that ranked 500th, the container maker Ball Corp, had nearly \$2.9 billion in revenue.



# Takeover talk is foundation of Revlon's recovery



FROM ANDREW BUTCHER IN NEW YORK

TAKEOVER speculation sent shares in Revlon's debt-laden Revlon cosmetics business soaring more than 50 per cent in a two-day buying frenzy recently, but a suitor is yet to emerge.

In fact, a week after the sudden purple patch for Revlon's struggling share price, it remains uncertain whether Mr Perelman's 33 per cent stake in the company is even up for sale. Regardless, the surge in Revlon shares has added near-

ly \$400 million (£240 million) to Mr Perelman's fortunes, at least on paper.

Speculative buying pushed daily turnover of Revlon's shares to 30 times the average daily level of the past three months and the shares have stayed well above their previous depressed levels.

Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch group that makes Elizabeth Arden cosmetics, and America's Procter & Gamble were touted as potential buyers but both refused to comment on the speculation. Shiseido, the Japanese group, was also said to be in-

terested in Revlon to help it to break into the US market. Unilever remains the favourite to start any takeover bid.

Although no buyer has announced a bid, that is no reason to think that Revlon is not in play. Shares in companies in which Mr Perelman has a big stake have a habit of wildly gyrating in the days before critical announcements. It has happened at Revlon. Consolidated Cigar, Sunbeam and Coleman in the past year. There is no suggestion of any wrongdoing by Mr Perelman.

In spite of the interest Mr

Perelman has made no effort to confirm or deny the rumours that Revlon is in play.

Revlon has certainly not been Mr Perelman's best investment. He bought it for \$1.7 billion in 1985 in a highly leveraged purchase using funds raised by Michael Milken, who pleaded guilty to securities fraud five years later.

While much of the stock market has soared recently, Revlon's stock has been a distinct underperformer. Its sales are slipping and it is saddled with considerable debt.

Revlon is struggling to lift

its profits in the crowded make-up industry in the US, while it tries to cope with economic problems in overseas markets. It gets more than a third of its income from outside America, so currency falls have added to the sales woes in Asia, Russia and South America.

The cosmetics company recently added Sarah O'Hare, the Australian model, to its stable of corporate spokesmen. It already boasts Cindy Crawford, the supermodel, and large-size model Emma. In January, with profits slumping 82 per cent, Revlon an-

nounced 1,000 to 1,200 job cuts, equal to 7 per cent of its workforce.

Mr Perelman is generally considered New York's richest resident, but his stock holdings were pounded last year and dropped in value by about \$2.5 billion. It left him worth about \$3.5 billion.

Despite financial strife at Revlon, his investments have recovered some of their lost ground this year. After this week's gains, Revlon has virtually doubled from its 1998 low, but remains less than half the value it was at its peak.

## GTE to acquire wireless assets

GTE, the US telecoms company, yesterday agreed to buy about half of Ameritech's wireless properties in US Midwest states for about \$3.27 billion (£2 billion). The assets being acquired include 1.7 million subscribers, GTE said.

The acquisition involves properties that Ameritech must divest as part of its proposed merger with SBC Communications. Bell Atlantic, which has agreed to a merger of equals with GTE, has given its consent to the deal.

Late last week reports said that William Kennard, chairman of the US Federal Communications Commission, sent a letter to Ameritech and SBC expressing serious concerns about the proposed merger of the two regional telecommunications providers.

The letter reportedly suggested that the FCC would impose strict conditions in the event that SBC's proposed \$56 billion acquisition of Ameritech is approved.

**Online trades soar**

US investors funnelled stock trades through the Internet at a record pace in the first quarter, and online trading volumes rose by up to 35 per cent to about 450,000 trades a day from the fourth quarter, according to analysts at CS First Boston. The surge in online trading volumes came despite overall market volumes rising just under 5 per cent from the fourth quarter. The rise means that Web brokers processed an average of 440,000 to 460,000 trades a day in the first quarter and continue to pick off market share from traditional brokers.

Shares of online brokers jumped yesterday, with AmeriTrade adding \$6.44 to a record \$69, eTrade up \$3.13 to \$63 and Schwab up \$3.25 to \$97.

**Tie Rack set to rise**

Shares of Tie Rack are expected to rise today after reports that the specialist retailer is in talks with Ferria, the privately owned Italian clothing manufacturer. The companies are believed to have discussed an offer of 40p a share, valuing the business at about £25 million. The shares closed at 35p on Thursday, the previous trading day, having plunged since their 1997 high of more than 200p.

## Regulator wants gas power station moratorium lifted

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

CALLUM McCARTHY, the energy regulator, has attacked the Government's block on new gas power stations, calling for its immediate removal.

Mr McCarthy, who is pursuing a strong campaign against profiteering by the generators, blames the moratorium for hampering competition in the industry. It was introduced to protect the market for coal as the mining industry lurched towards a massive decline.

He told *The Times*: "Anyone with the statutory responsibilities given to me cannot be a supporter of the moratorium. I would like to see it removed forthwith because we have a duty to promote competition, and this is an impediment to competition."

The block, while helping coal, also shields the three main coal-burning generators from new competitors. Last year the Government ordered National Power and PowerGen to sell power stations in order to counter this and to stimulate competition. But Mr McCarthy has since been angered by what he considers to be gaming in the electricity market which has forced up the price of power.

The regulator, who has been overseeing the electricity industry since January, says that the generators will face quickie licence amendments to prohibit

price rises if their charges do not fall. Mr McCarthy also dismissed the claims made for the generators that electricity prices have fallen. "At the moment it is manifest that we haven't got a genuinely competitive generation sector. When you look over ten years at the huge falling away in input prices and you look at what has happened to output prices, that mismatch is completely incompatible with genuine competition."

There has been a 30 per cent fall in prices. Some seem to suggest that is something the generators have done but that fall has come from the reduction in the non-fossil fuel obligation (with the withdrawal of the levy

for nuclear energy) from tighter controls on distribution and supply, and from the last of the coal contracts.

Mr McCarthy is determined to push down electricity prices below the level envisaged by the Government in its energy review. When the review began it was predicted that prices could fall by 10 per cent once the electricity trading arrangements have been overhauled.

The regulator is pushing for a quick shake-up of the power market and the scrapping of the controversial electricity pool — moves ordered by John Battle, the Energy Minister, in the energy review. His keenness was sharpened by the pool's cursory treatment of a senior official from Mr McCarthy's office at a meeting earlier this year.

But he concedes that the overhaul — never likely to be easy, given the myriad of interested parties — could hit legislative delays. If the Utilities Regulation Bill goes into the next Queen's Speech then legislation will not follow until late next year. Similarly, if the moves are attempted by licence changes and the companies object and force a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry, then the process will drag on for as long, if not longer. April 2000 is the target date for the reforms.



Battle seeks reforms



Wyndham's is one of Chesterfield's eight West End theatres. They are being valued as part of a plan to sell assets

## Chesterfield sites to be valued

BY MARTIN BARROW

CHESTERFIELD PROPERTIES has appointed advisers to value its entertainment division as part of a plan to sell its assets and return the proceeds to shareholders.

The group has appointed Investor to value the division, which has eight West End theatres. These include Wyndham's and the Donmar Warehouse, a theatre production company and a film and television distribution arm.

Since announcing a possible corporate restructuring in February Chesterfield has received a bid approach from Quintain Estates and Development. Quintain said it would sell all the London properties, including the entertainment division, to Benchmark Group. Roger Wingate, a former chairman of Chesterfield and now chief executive as well as its largest shareholder, has expressed an interest in bidding for the division but firm proposals have yet to be announced.

The winding-up of Chesterfield was wel-

comed in the City, where institutional investors have put pressure on the management of smaller property companies to consolidate. But progress has been slow, complicated by the bid approach. There has also been disquiet about the role of Robert Maxfield, the former chief executive. He was expected to join GE Capital, which has agreed to acquire a £93.5 million property portfolio from Chesterfield.

At an extraordinary meeting last month the board requested more time to bring about the restructuring.

## BBC deal boosts US audience

BBC AMERICA, the subscription television channel with programmes ranging from *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* to *EastEnders*, has doubled its distribution in the US through a deal with DIRECTV, the leading American satellite broadcaster (Raymond Snoddy writes).

DIRECTV will broadcast the BBC subscription channel to its 4.6 million digital satellite viewers all over the US. It means that the channel, carrying a wide range of BBC entertainment, will be available in just under nine million homes.

BBC America has found it difficult to get on to US cable networks because of the growing capacity problem, but DIRECTV broadcasts a total of 185 channels.

Rupert Gavin, chief executive of BBC Worldwide, said that the DIRECTV deal was a key part of a BBC global strategy to increase its portfolio of international channels.

BBC channels are now available in some form in 225 million homes worldwide.

BBC America is distributed by Discovery Networks as part of a global alliance between the two organisations.

## Companies urged to appeal against rates

BY MARTIN BARROW

COMPANIES in England and Wales could be wasting up to £3 billion a year on rate payments, according to research published today.

At present just 40 per cent of all rating assessments are subject to an appeal. Yet nearly half the rateable properties in England and Wales, with a value of more than £16 billion, could find their rates reduced on appeal, according to Fletcher King, the property and construction services group.

The firm's research is based on national statistics regarding

the rateable value of all commercial property in the UK, measured against Fletcher King's own success rate in conducting rating appeals for its clients and the average reduction rate secured on appeal.

Bob Dickman, head of Fletcher King's rating division, said: "The fact that only 40 per cent of rating assessments on commercial properties are appealed in England and Wales is an astonishingly low figure when you consider the amount of money involved."

Fletcher King's own record

on appeals is that for every ten appeals made on behalf of clients eight are successful, securing an average reduction rate of 17 per cent.

Mr Dickman said: "If we use those figures as a benchmark it is clear that many property owners and occupiers are paying considerably more than they need on their rates."

Next year a new rating list will come into force. The effect of the revaluation on rateable value will depend on the type of property and its locality, but increases may be significant.

Analysts believe that prime Central London office assessments are likely to double, with the immediate effect on rate payments depending on what phasing provisions are made by the Government.

These could be similar to those that apply to the 1995 Rating List, where increases in rate liability for Central London offices with an assessment of more than £15,000 have their annual increases restricted to 10 per cent plus inflation.



Prime London office rate assessments are expected to double

## Paul Durman offers reassurance over chief's CV

## Azur board prepares to float

TONY MARTIN has an eye-catching CV, having worked for British Biotech, Celis International and Tegen Sciences — three biotechnology companies that have resolutely destroyed the value of the money that shareholders invested in them.

Dr Martin is about to try again with Azur Environmental, a water monitoring equipment firm that he hopes to float on Easdaq in June or July. He plans to raise \$20 million to fund expansion and expects Azur to be worth up to \$60 million.

The "scorched earth" that Dr Martin's career has left behind him is not as worrying as it looks. At British Biotech he ran the profitable genetic products arm for about five years, and left in 1992 — long before the origins of last year's controversy over its misleadingly optimistic assessments of its drugs. And he was chairman of Tegen for just a little more than a year.

More troubling was his sacking as

chief executive of Celis in 1994, only nine months after Chris Evans's hygiene monitoring company was floated. Mark Clement, his finance director, publicly branded Dr Martin as "ineffectual", an early example of the flair of biotech firms to make a bad situation worse.

Dr Martin, who eventually won a handsome settlement from Celis, remains mystified by the episode. He said: "I still don't know to this day what led them, and Mark in particular, to say those things. I never detected any animosity and Mark had become almost a personal friend. I was very surprised by it all."

He became chairman and chief executive of Azur, then called Microbios, in June 1995, and raised \$15 million for the Californian-registered firm following March. Azur is now based in Reading, although most of its 48 staff remain in the US.

Working closely with Yorkshire Water,

Azur has developed instruments that use freeze-dried bacteria to measure the toxicity of water — important both in the water industry and in a wide range of industrial processes. Dr Martin claims that this is an \$8 billion market, although Azur's annual sales are currently less than \$5 million.

The development, of an online system that allows remote monitoring is forecast to produce a rapid increase in sales over the next few years, from \$7 million next year to \$35 million in the 2003 financial year. Azur plans to break even in 2001.

Yorkshire is already using Azur's Microtox-OS system, and the product is on trial with Northumbrian Water as well as with the East of Scotland water company.

Azur has also worked with Shell to develop a test to measure petroleum hydrocarbons in soil.

No.1 Best-Selling Small Business Solution Worldwide

# Start saving your business money — try QuickBooks FREE.

QuickBooks 6.0 is the fastest, easiest way to manage your business finances. Because it is so simple to use, you spend less time doing your books and more time doing business — increasing productivity and saving money. So why not start using it right away? Call us today to trial QuickBooks FREE.

- No accounting knowledge needed. QuickBooks works in plain English. It's simple to learn and use, guiding you through every step.
- Works the way you're used to. Work onscreen with familiar forms like invoices, cheques and statements, while all the accounting functions are performed in the background.
- Saves time and money. QuickBooks manages your cashflow, tracks who owes you money, calculates VAT, displays any aspect of your finances immediately.
- Completely customisable. Turn on features as and when you need them. Customise invoices, statements and other forms, you can even add your own logo.

## QuickBooks

System requirements: Windows 95/98/NT 4.0 or higher. Minimum 16MB available RAM with 32MB RAM recommended. Hard disk with QuickBooks 6.0 (55MB). QuickBooks Pro 6.0 (55MB). Optional Microsoft Internet Explorer required. 40MB additional 256 colour VGA or SVGA video. Works with any printer supported by Windows 95/98/NT 4.0 or higher.

Get started right away.

## FREE TRIAL CD

We're so confident you'll find QuickBooks the fastest and easiest way to manage your business finances that we'll send you a Trial CD absolutely FREE, with no obligations. Call now and receive your Trial CD.

# 0800 58 50 58

Telephone lines open Mon - Fri from 9.30am - 5.30pm. Quoting: BATIMES

Order your FREE QuickBooks Trial CD: By Fax Fax this coupon to 01932 578 822. By Post Send this coupon to: Intuit Service Centre, FREEPOST SEA 20318, P.O. Box 329, Lutter House, Chertsey, WY16 9XZ. By Internet Log onto [www.quickbooks.co.uk](http://www.quickbooks.co.uk)

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms) \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Business \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Tick this box if you do not wish to receive future mailings from Intuit

☐ Tick this box if you do not wish to receive mailings from other companies

BATIMES





The trigger for the default on Zimbabwe's foreign debt could come in two weeks' time when the prices for tobacco, the main cash crop, are set

## Zimbabwe on verge of greatest financial crisis

April is the cruellest month. Within three weeks Zimbabwe could face the greatest financial crisis of its history: not just the 20-year history since it gained majority rule, or of the 33 years since it turned its back on Britain. But since the days when Cecil Rhodes opened the potential of what was then Southern Rhodesia more than a century ago.

To be blunt, Zimbabwe is running out of cash. It is on the threshold of a full-scale default on its foreign debt — which would see it fall from being a small but exciting player in the world economic system to another African basket case.

The default — which senior business figures in Harare talk about sotto voce, preferably over a gin and tonic — would undo a decade of good work and could have a knock-on effect for British companies such as Standard Chartered, Barclays and BAT, which have billions of pounds invested in the country.

The trigger is likely to be the tobacco "floor" in a little over two weeks, when the prices for

Jason Nissé reports from Harare on how a once thriving economy risks becoming another African basket case

the country's main cash crop are set. But the trouble has been brewing over a period which an official of Stanbic, the country's largest bank, calls "a mad 500 days".

Consider this evidence. A year and a half ago, Zimbabwe was thriving. In the mid-1990s it had finally thrown off the mantle of being the most promising country in Africa and had a genuinely booming economy. Agricultural exports, notably tobacco, were strong, the mining sector was thriving, and tourism was becoming a genuine engine for growth. The country has the highest literacy rate in Africa, a well-trained and willing workforce (Zimbabwean staff are highly prized by South African hotels and retailers because of their work ethic and good manners) and, after South Africa, the best-developed financial system in sub-Saharan Africa. So the country had external debts of about £3 billion — 77

per cent of the gross national product. It had never defaulted on an external loan and both the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the international community loved it.

Then Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's veteran President, effectively shot the economy in the foot.

First he resurrected plans for land reform which had been smouldering on the back burner since he came to power in 1980. He said the country would confiscate 1,400 farms owned by white farmers and redistribute them to poor black workers. There would be compensation, but there were still howls of protest. This plan has since been watered down to 800 farms and is rather off the main political agenda at the moment.

However, as the land reform row died down, Mugabe agreed a surprise \$3.5 billion (£60 million) package of payments to war veterans. This was seen as a political move that threw the economic calculations out of line.

There was a run on the currency — and what a run. In one day the Zimbabwe dollar fell from 14 to the US dollar to 26 and now stands at Zim\$38 to the US dollar.

US\$120 million of aid because of human rights violations — notably the torturing of two local journalists arrested last year after reporting an alleged attempted coup against the Mugabe Government.

Yet the banking sector has been able to support the Zimbabwe dollar and hold an uneasy calm in the markets for the past three months. It stepped in when the currency fell below Zim\$40 to the US dollar and on the back of this there has been a recovery in the lively Zimbabwe stock market, which has seen its industrial index rise more than 40 per cent this year.

Tony Barfoot, chief executive of the exchange, points to a whole series of good results posted by leading Zimbabwe companies such as Meikles, the hotel and retailing group, and Econet, the mobile phone franchise. "The listed companies have been doing well while the currency is under pressure as it makes their exports cheaper," Mr Barfoot says.

There is one exception — the beleaguered textile industry, which has been hit by bad weather. This is particularly bad news for Lomho Africa, which is trying to sell its majority stake in David Whitehead, Zimbabwe's largest cotton producer. Offers of Zim\$300 million for the stake have fallen well short of expectations and Tony Cullen, Whitehead's managing director, has criticised

Lomho's timing. However, in the next few weeks this minor boom could fall apart. The commercial banks are running out of patience. They are pleased that their intervention has worked but do not want to be effectively underwriting an overvalued currency for much longer. "We have to see a return to market forces," says Barry Hamilton, chief executive of Standard Chartered in Zimbabwe, the country's largest foreign bank, which has about £250 million extended to Zimbabwean businesses.

Harare's business leaders say that, if the worst comes to the worst, the country could run out of foreign reserves within weeks. For this to happen the prices at the tobacco sales would be disappointing, the Zimbabwean army would remain tied up in the DRC and the IMF, World Bank and US would not come up with any more money because Zimbabwe has not met the criteria set in the various loan and aid agreements struck over the past couple of years and the Government is adopting a decidedly anti-US stance.

To avoid a liquidity crisis, the Mugabe Government would have to immediately impose quite draconian exchange controls, the like of which have not been seen in Zimbabwe for more than a decade. It could even be forced into having to default on its debt payments.

Alternatively, the tobacco sales could go well, Mr Mugabe could withdraw his troops from the DRC, the IMF could release its US\$53 million and the US could pay its US\$120 million of aid.

There would be the small matter of inflation running at about 50 per cent and political uncertainty about who might succeed the 75-year-old Mr Mugabe, who has said he will retire by 2002. But, as Mervyn Ellis, a consultant economist who works for the World Bank among others, points out: "This country has never had good government. Yet the economy seems to come through all sorts of man-made disasters."

In Harare they are hoping that April will not bring one man-made disaster too many.



Mugabe: to retire by 2002

### WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 26

#### BITESHEEP

(b) A rude name for a bishop. A favourite pun, as if a bishop were one bites the sheep which he ought to feed. Originally German *beischap*. "Your Bishops are Bitesheep, Your Deans are Dunces."

#### ALACRIOUS

(a) Brisk, lively, active. From the Latin *alacris*, cf. *hilarious*. "Alacrious attempts to redeem time."

#### BABERY

(c) Grotesque ornamentation in architecture and books. Grotesque absurdity. Perhaps originally a spoken or written corruption of *baboonery*. Sir Philip Sidney, *Arcadia*, 1580: "Trim books in Velvet Dight/With golden leaves and painted babery."

#### BRANKS

(c) A scold's bridle. An instrument of punishment used in the case of scolds, consisting of a kind of iron framework to enclose the head, having a sharp metal gag or bit which entered the mouth and restrained the tongue. A Scotch word found since the 16th century, of unknown etymology.

### SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

1. Qxb1+ 2. Nxb1 Rd1 checkmate

### TELEVISION CHOICE

## Fast train to Bangkok

Great Railway Journeys

BBC2, 9.30pm

Stephen Tompkinson, of *Ballykissangel* and *Drop the Dead Donkey*, is in larky mood for a trip from Singapore to Bangkok, mainly aboard the Eastern and Oriental Express. Given the restrictions of rich space and opportunities for avoiding spoils, rich spores, "luxury" trains have always seemed to me a contradiction in terms, but the E&O looks to be well equipped, charmingly staffed and generous in its visualising. The passing scenery is certainly worth seeing and Tompkinson's self-described observations are direct and intelligent. Tellingly, it is on a side trip to the "Death Railway" constructed by prisoners of war for the Japanese, and the Bridge over the River Kwai, that the film moves up a notch or two.

Chasing the Tiger

BBC1, 10.30pm

Five years ago, it was predicted that tigers would be extinct in the wild by the year 2000. As Julian Pether, who presents and narrates this film, points out, this has not happened but at the present rates of depredation, extinction is still likely. Touring India and parts of South-East Asia, he uncovers not only evidence of high-level indifference to the fate of tigers, but blatant flooding (in Japan) of the idea of conservation. Until the demand for tiger body parts (as cure-alls and virility potions) dries up, all the remaining tigers are in danger. What is more, population growth and the demand for land and wood for fuel suggest that, within a few years, India's surviving tigers will be confined to small pockets of tightly guarded forest, as much prisoners as any zoo-held animals in the world.

Trading Places: French Exchange

BBC1, 5.10pm

The start of a documentary series following pupils from a school in King's Lynn, Norfolk, on a week's visit to a town in the Champagne region of France. The youngest is 12 and the boys are outnumbered



Stephen Tompkinson on the E&O Express in *Great Railway Journeys* (BBC2, 9.30pm)

by the girls, who noticeably play up to the camera more. Advocates of earlier and more intensive foreign language teaching should find plenty of ammunition in the apparent disparity between Norfolk's French and Champagne's English, but in the first programme the emphasis is on the nervousness (however well disguised) of the English children and the real cultural divide which exists to be bridged.

Dead Man Talking

Channel 4, 9pm

Most of us love a detective story and many of us have recently enjoyed the archaeological investigation of *Time Team* and the like. Here's a tale which combines these attractions: a modern murder mystery in which a skeletal corpse must be identified before its killers can be tracked down. The body is turned up by a plough in a Hampshire field. Reconstruction and dental evidence suggest a non-English victim and the man is discovered to have been an illegal immigrant from India, living in Ilford, where he appears to have been killed. Even if you have seen or recall newspaper reports of the case, it remains a thoroughly fascinating hour's viewing.

Tony Patrick

### RADIO CHOICE

How Ticked Am I?

Radio 4, 11.30am

Mark Radcliffe is only the latest presenter to discover that the walls between the various BBC radio networks are not as high as they used to be: there was a time when presenters from Radio 1 had to wear disguises if they wandered into Radio 4's neck of the woods. Radcliffe presents this new series about northern comedians, which starts with Frank Randle, the hard-drinking "rebel from Wigan". Of course coming from Wigan gives a comedian an early advantage: in the days of music-hall you had only to say "Wigan" in front of a southern audience to get a laugh. The rest of the series features names that should be more familiar: Jimmy Clitheroe, Les Dawson, Ken Dodd, Jimmy James and Sandy Powell.

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball 9.00am Kevin Greening 12.00pm Jo Whiley 2.00pm Mark Radcliffe 4.00pm Chris Moyles 5.45pm Newbeat 8.00pm Dave Pearson 9.00pm Steve Lamacq The Evening Session 10.00pm Digital Update 10.10pm John Peel 11.00pm The Brakesblock 2.00am Dave Warren 4.00pm Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30am Wake up to Wogan 9.30am Ken Bruce 12.00pm Jimmy Young 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05pm Johnnie Walker 7.00pm Carole Dixon New series of classic tracks from stage, screen, concert hall and opera 8.00pm Nigel Ogden 9.00pm A Century of New York 10.00pm Whicker's New World (2/7) 10.30pm Richard Ainsworth 12.00pm Mo Duta 3.00pm Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00am Breakfast with Julian Worraker and Victoria Derbyshire 9.00am Nicky Campbell 12.00pm The Midday News 1.00pm Ian Payne 4.00pm Drive 7.00pm News Extra 7.30pm The Tuesday Match. Russell Fuller presents coverage of the FA Premiership fixtures between Arsenal and Blackburn Rovers at Highbury and Leicester City and Aston Villa at Fallow Street 10.00pm Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast 9.00am Scott Chisholm & Sally James 12.00pm Crime Fighters 1.00pm Anna Reesman 4.00pm The Sports Zone 7.00pm The World of Formula 1 8.00pm Cheating Hearts 10.00pm James White 1.00am Ian Collins

VIRGIN

6.30am Breakfast Show Team 9.30am Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00pm Harriet Scott 6.45pm Pete and Geoff 10.00pm Gary Davies 1.00am James Merritt 4.30pm Phil Kennedy

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny, including a review of the new film *The Red Violin* 9.00am Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Beethoven (Variations for Ein Madchen oder Weibchen, Op 120); Chopin (Prelude to a Sonata, Op 10 No 3); Beethoven (Variations for C minor, WoO 80); Reger (Magnificat); Beethoven (Variations on Mozart's Bei Manne, welche Liebe haben! WoO 48); Goldmark (Violin Concerto No 1 in minor) 10.30am Artist of the Week: John Tomlinson 11.00am Sound Stories: Cathedral Richard Baker investigates the significance of Westminster Abbey to playwrights, poets and musicians 12.00pm Composer of the Week: Britten (i) 1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Chantel Juliet, violin, David Owen Norris, piano, Copland (Violin Sonata); Amy Beach (Three Pieces, Op 40); Mahler (Piano Concerto No 1 in D major); Schubert (Violin Sonata); Corigliano (Violin Sonata) 2.00pm The BBC Orchestras BBC National Orchestra of Wales 4.00pm Voices Iain Burnside introduces a selection of songs written in 1998 (i) 5.00pm In Tune Sam Plaffery talks to Christopher Page about Richard the Lionheart on the 800th anniversary of the death of the English monarch 7.30pm Performance on 3 A recital recorded last February at the Festival Hall, London. Daniel Barenboim, piano. Beethoven (Piano Sonatas in C

minor, Op 13; Pathétique; in E, Op 109); Debussy (Preludes, Book 1) 9.20pm Postscript: Cinema Apocryphica (2/5) 9.45pm Job The European premiere, given in 1997 at London's Barbican Hall, of Peter Maxwell Davies's powerful and imaginative oratorio, dramatising the Old Testament story of suffering and innocence. Catherine Pierard, soprano, Catherine Wyn-Rogers, mezzo, Mark Padmore, tenor, Kevin MacMillan, baritone, BBC Singers, City of London Sinfonia under Richard Hickox 11.00pm Night Waves Richard Coles talks to the historian Iain Thomas 11.30pm Jazz Notes Alyn Shapton presents the second part of the concert given by Buddy Pizzarello and the John Coltrane Trio 12.00pm Through the Night Includes Wassenaar (Concerto No 1) 12.25pm Field (Rondo for piano and strings) 12.30pm Tchaikovsky (Romeo and Juliet) 12.55pm Mozart (Ave verum corpus) 1.00pm Liszt (Tasso) 2.25pm Mahler (Symphony No 2, 240 Symphonies) (Variations, Op 3) 2.50pm Brahms (Symphony No 4) 3.35pm Strauss (Cello Sonata) 4.00pm Stravinsky (8 Instrumental Miniatures) 4.10pm Mozart (Divertimento, K137) 4.20pm Monteverdi (Magnificat) 4.45pm Faure (for harp) 5.00pm Mozart (Bassoon and Cello Sonata, K292) 5.15pm Mendelssohn (Violin Concerto in E minor) 5.45pm Scarlatti (Sonata, K37) 5.50pm Gaubert (Aquarelle No 1)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35pm Shipping Forecast 5.40am Inshore Forecast 5.45pm Prayer for the Day 6.47pm Today Charlotte Smith presents 6.00pm Today Introduced by Sue MacGregor 9.00pm Unreliable Evidence The mysteries of the legal system are uncovered with the aid of Clive Anderson and other expert guests 9.30pm Song Lines David Stoddard reveals the origins of the song Happy Birthday, penned by Patty and Mildred Hill (2/5) (i) 9.45pm The World at One With James Cox 9.45pm (F4) Serial: Just William — The 80th Anniversary Martin Jarvis reads *That Boy*, by Richard Crompton 10.00pm Woman's Hour Martha Kearney speaks to Maggie McGuire about her daughter's anniversary message 11.00pm Tales from the Back of Beyond Marc Francis learns about the lives of China's Dong people, famed for their vocal abilities (i) 11.30pm How Ticked Am I? New series. See Choice (1/6) 12.00pm (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast 12.00pm (F4) News 12.04pm You and Yours topical consumer news and investigations 1.00pm The World at One With James Cox 1.30pm The Musical Side of the Family See Choice 2.00pm The Archers Broadcast yesterday (i) 2.15pm Alexander Play Descent of the Gods Comedy by Alexandra Cadell. Two interviews from *Desert Island Discs* find the reality of being married less than satisfactory. Starring Nicholas Le Francis, Eddie Marsden and Sue Lawley (i) 3.00pm The Exchange: 0570 010 0444 Peter White invites listeners' views on a topical issue 3.30pm What's Yours is Mine Couples talk about how money affects their relationships. Rory Cullen-Jones presents (1/4) (i)

3.45pm This Scrooped Isle Anna Massey narrates part 67 of the history of Britain (i) 4.00pm A Good Read The comedian Rob Newman and the writer Sara Wheeler discuss their favourite paperback with Sarah LeFau 4.30pm Shop Talk Business matters 5.00pm With Claire English and Chris Lowe 6.00pm 0100 News 6.30pm I'm Glad You Asked Me That Offbeat guide to modern living, with Michael Bywater, Sean Meo and Philip Pope (2/6) 7.00pm The Archers The latest from Ambridge 7.15pm Front Row The live night arts programme, presented by Mark Lawson 7.45pm Diary of a Provincial Lady E.M. Delafield's household journal, starring Imelda Staunton and Richard Hope. Broadcast earlier as part of Woman's Hour (i) 8.00pm The Facts John Wale and his team follow up listeners' complaints 8.40pm In Touch Peter White presents news for visually impaired people 9.00pm News Special Graham Easton reveals how to keep lungs healthy 9.30pm Unreliable Evidence Broadcast earlier (i) 10.00pm The World Tonight with Justin Webb 10.45pm Book at Bedtime: *Ambridge* by Robert Harris. A man claims he knows the whereabouts of Salin's notebook. Read by Alan Howard 11.00pm Late Night on 4: The Now Show Stand-up comedy and sketches with Steve Punt and Hugh Dennis (i) 11.30pm Talking Pictures the latest film news 12.00pm News 12.30am The Late Book: *Bartholomew* by Kevin Whately reads Philip Gregory's novel about the life of the Jacobean gardener and adventurer John Tradescant 12.48pm Shipping Forecast 1.00am As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198. MW 623, 905. WORLD SERVICE, MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.6; LW 197, 1215. TALK RADIO, MW 1053, 1059. Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Murray, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe

**An exclusive**  
**HOLIDAY HOME**  
*in the*  
**LAKE DISTRICT**  
*for life*

...COMPLETE WITH YOUR OWN VIEW OVER DERWENT WATER AND ACROSS THE FELS TO SCARFELL PIKE.

Stunningly situated on the sheltered lower slopes of Skiddaw Fell, Underscar is an enchanting country estate of the utmost beauty and tranquillity, whose 19th Century coach house and walled gardens are being lovingly restored to create 26 exclusive time-ownership homes in an idyllic courtyard setting. These luxurious and unusually spacious homes are available in one- and two- bedroom configurations to sleep four to six people. As an owner at Underscar, you will enjoy the delights of your own private health spa with pool, spa bath, steam room and gymnasium. Prices range from £5,000 to £18,000 (inc. VAT) for 80 years of ownership.

For a detailed brochure call 01768 775577

**UNDERSCAR**  
7th NORTHERN LAKES  
UNDERSCAR, APPLEWATE, NEWBURY, CUMBRIA, CA12 4PH

Please send me the full details of time-ownership at Underscar

Name: (Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone no: \_\_\_\_\_

Underscar may ask you to return information in the Underscar Document which is available on request.

سكوت من الاموال



## REVIEW

Joe  
Joseph

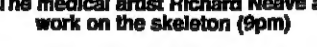
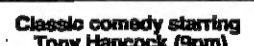
shone in her role as Henry's girlfriend, Michelle — he makes up for in genial watchability. And hey, great songs!

More fab tunes in *The Bay City Rollers — Remember?* (BBCI), and actually, yes, it is hard to remember just how huge a success they were in their tartan-trimmed clown's outfits (they still are in Japan: look no further for evidence of the unflathomability of the Japanese).

This was a well-made documentary about the Scottish band and their bubblegum pop, and about how fame made them neither happy nor rich, and I'm glad I saw it. But I'm not quite as cheered by news that the band is reforming. So to the producers of *The Bay City Rollers — Remember?*: the answer is "Yes we do, but can we now forget again, please?" Because, as we all know, magic tricks are never quite so convincing

CHANNEL 5

**50s News and Sport** Current events (60834357)  
**Worldwide** Part three. The technical advances made by Portuguese explorers (P) (2913273)  
**Milkshake!** (2701631)  
**Dappleford Farm** (P) (4132544)  
**Alvin and the Chipmunks** (P) (8912877)  
**Witchworld;** 5 News Update (8911148)  
**Was it Good For You?** (P) (4876273)  
**Russell Grant's Postcards** (3334693)  
**The Oprah Winfrey Show** (6831896)  
**Sunset Beach** Michael confronts Virginia (P) (4317070)  
**Lezco** (3098983)  
**5 News at Noon** (P) (8915964)  
**Open Family Affairs** Benji defends Maggie's honour (P) (3330713)  
**The Good Wife** Beautiful Salt receives bad news (P) (2912544)  
**The Roseanne Show** Entertainment and chat with the outrageous comedienne  
 5 News Update (10333494)  
**100 Per Cent Good** (2216761)  
**Good Afternoon Lifestyle** programmes  
 5 News Update (6809631)  
**Vanishing Act** (TV 1986) A bride disappears while on honeymoon, leaving her husband grasping at straws in a bid to find her. Thriller, starring Elliot Gould. Directed by David Green (P) (2063419)  
**5 News** (59324525)  
**100 Per Cent** (6120728)  
**5 News; Weather Round-up** of the day's stories (P) (2003041)  
**Family Affairs** Sadie shows off her cookery skills (P) (6291683)  
**Knight Rider** Bonnie is kidnapped by a sinister intellectual organisation and forced to programme KITT to participate in money robberies and kill Michael. David Hasselhoff stars (P) (2228777)  
**Animal Marvels** A close-up look at giant armies of ants, exploring the relationship with plants (P); 5 News Update (6287877)  
**Computer Software: Are You Being Cheated?** New series. Real-life footage



**Will Dams Harm the Environment?** Will Dams examines claims that computer companies encourage this kind of crime by overpricing their goods, and reveals the true extent of this thriving underground industry (1/4) (T) (2326825)

**What Went Wrong?** Dramatic look at computer and reconstruction of real-life events that led to the crash of the world's greatest computer software piracy. Will Dams examines claims that computer companies encourage this kind of crime by overpricing their goods, and reveals the true extent of this thriving underground industry (1/4) (T) (2326825)

**White Mill (TVM 1994)** Alan Clark stars as an advertising agency head who persuades his colleagues to go white-water rafting on the treacherous rivers of British Columbia — with tragic consequences. Directed by Robert Butler (S); 5 News Update (49306959)

**Two Goo Embarks on a Relationship** with a passionate woman, but gets more than he bargained for when her mysterious past comes to light (3770803)

**Kosovo Appeal (6495490)**

**Live and Dangerous** Soccer action from the Dutch League (see 73179864)

**Item 100 Per Cent (I) (6834007)**

**VIDEO PLUS+ and VIDEO PLUS+ code** numbers allow each programmer for VIDEO PLUS+ programming. Just enter the VIDEO PLUS+ number for the relevant programmer(s) into your VCR.

For more details call VIDEO PLUS on 0640 750701

## HISTORY

9.00am Food Network Daily 9.00am Cw  
 10.00am The Green Greenhouse 10.00am  
 10.30am Nancy Lang's Work Week 11.00am  
 Thompson Cooks 11.30am Ideal Home Cooks  
 12.00pm Food Network Daily 12.30pm Local  
 1.00pm The Green Greenhouse 1.30pm  
 1.30pm Thoroughly Modern Madams 2.00pm  
 Simply Baking 2.30pm Food Network Daily  
 3.00pm Keric West 3.30pm Ideal Home Cooks  
 4.00pm Tessa's Test Kitchen 4.30pm Lunch with  
 Bonnes 5.00pm

### LIVING

6.00am Carri Cook, Won't Cook 6.30am  
 Animal Rescue 7.00am Sports Bubble 7.25am  
 Carri Cook's Food Projects 7.50am  
 8.00am The Green Greenhouse 8.30am  
 Pairing 6.00 Barney and Friends 8.25am  
 9.00am The Jiffy and Crew 8.50am  
 Pairing 9.00 Speed Bikes 9.30am  
 10.00am The Green Greenhouse 10.30am  
 10.50am Musical Special 11.40am Broadsides  
 12.00pm Through the Keyhole 12.30pm  
 Rescue 1.11.16 Beyond Belief: Fact or  
 Fiction 1.15.16 The Green Greenhouse  
 1.30pm 3.00pm The Jiffy Springer Show  
 Michael Cole 4.40 Home and Away 5.15.16  
 Through the Keyhole 5.45pm Carri Cook  
 6.00pm 1.15 The Green Greenhouse 6.30pm  
 7.05pm Rescue 1.11.16 Animal Rescue 6.00pm  
 LA Law 8.00pm FLM: Shooting Elizabeth  
 19.02 11.00pm Pairing 12.00pm Cook

### SEE TV

5.00pm Pangea Folk Songs 5.30pm Old  
 Gold 6.00pm App Ki Farmish 7.25pm U.S.  
 8.00pm The Green Greenhouse 8.30pm  
 8.40pm Our and About 8.30pm Daily News  
 9.00pm Hazraton 10.00pm Stage Plays 11.00pm  
 Khazana 11.30pm Stage Plays 12.00pm  
 1.00pm Our and About 12.30pm  
 Film Chikhele 4.30pm Top 10 5.30pm  
 Ashwini 6.00pm Mama Moya 6.30pm  
 Humma Ram Ram 7.00pm Du Aur Du Panchang  
 7.30pm 8.00pm The Green Greenhouse  
 8.30pm 8.40pm Top 10 9.00pm Top 10  
 9.00pm Top 10 9.30pm Top 10  
 9.30pm Top 10 10.30pm Maharashtra 11.30pm  
 Haddon Ke 10.30pm Maharashtra 11.30pm  
 12.00pm Maharashtra 12.00pm  
 1.30pm Pairing 2.00pm 3.00pm Ashwini  
 3.30pm Ashwini 4.00pm Ashwini 4.30pm





**PROFILE 40**  
Change of  
direction  
for P&O

# BUSINESS

DEBT CRISIS 42

Zimbabwe  
on brink of  
financial ruin



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY APRIL 6 1999

New issues dry up in first quarter as investors shun smaller stocks

## Flotations fall to ten-year low



Mackay: floated brewer

By PAUL ARMSTRONG

THE number of flotations on the London Stock Exchange has slumped to its lowest level for more than ten years, even though share prices have risen to an all-time high.

Just ten issues joined the stock market in the three months to the end of March, according to a survey by KPMG Corporate Finance. Six of these were investment trusts.

Yesterday KPMG gave warning that the situation was unlikely to improve this year. Neil Austin, head of new issues at KPMG, said the flight of investment capital away from

smaller stocks would probably cause the number of quoted companies going private to double from last year's number of 25.

He said this figure would be much higher if the mechanics of privatisation were not so difficult. But Mr Austin said fears were also growing among institutions that some managers were playing down their company's prospects to enable management buyouts to be made at a more favourable price.

He said a recent corporate governance survey by KPMG had revealed that fund managers were increasingly looking to non-executive directors as a

way to ensure that smaller companies' share prices were not deliberately restrained.

The ten flotations in the March quarter compares with 12 in the previous corresponding period and 73 for the same time in 1994.

Those companies that joined the quoted sector in the past three months include Yeoman 11 Investment Trust, which raised £35.8 million, Jupiter Enhanced Income Investment Trust (£47.7 million), Close Brothers Development (£4.3 million), Gander Properties (introduction), Acorn Income Fund (£12 million), The Enhanced Zero Trust (£60 mil-

lion), Synstar (£96 million), South African Breweries (£300 million) led by Graham Mackay, chief executive, Axon Group (£13.8 million) and Morse Holdings (£145 million). The figures exclude the April 1 listing of Canary Wharf, which raised £551 million.

Buyout proposals announced recently include Hall Engineering (£32.8 million), Goldsmiths (£43.9 million) and Rebus (£172 million).

The surging popularity of index tracker funds has seen fund managers abandon smaller and many medium-sized companies in favour of their bigger listed counter-

parts. The trend has exacerbated the problem of poor liquidity at the junior end of the market, where institutions fear they will be unable to sell a holding without severely depressing the share price.

It has also raised concerns about a shortage of development capital for emerging companies.

Mr Austin said a small part of the junior sector's plight could be blamed on a cyclical downturn, but most of it reflected a fundamental shift in investment priorities.

While institutions acknowledged that shares in some smaller companies were good

value, it took too much time and money to identify them.

He said the poor market for smaller flotations would eventually deter venture capital groups from funding some buyouts because this avenue for exiting the investment was narrowing.

However, the lack of interest in smaller stocks could also provide an opportunity for those venture capitalists with a longer-term view.

Mr Austin said they could retain their investment while the company grew to a point where it attracted fund managers, providing scope for a substantial return.

## Markets hope for double rate cut boost

By ALASDAIR MURRAY  
ECONOMICS  
CORRESPONDENT

FINANCIAL markets hope for a double boost this week, with both the Bank of England and the European Central Bank (ECB) tipped to cut interest rates.

In Britain the business trends survey of the Engineering Employers' Federation is expected to show the engineering industry, comprising 5,000-plus companies employing 1.5 million, slipped deeper into recession in the first quarter.

The ECB has softened its stance recently, with senior members of the governing board apparently emphasising the risks of a slowdown in the European economy. The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) and the ECB will announce their decisions on Thursday.

A majority of City economists expect the MPC to cut rates by a quarter point because of the continued strength of the pound and lower than expected fourth quarter GDP growth.

Survey evidence has suggested that the European economy is rapidly slowing, while inflation remains subdued. The resignation of Oskar Lafontaine, German Finance Minister, also removed a perceived political obstacle to rate cuts.

The ECB has come under pressure from international institutions in recent weeks to consider a rate cut. Last week the European Commission cut its eurozone growth forecast from 2.6 per cent to 2.2 per cent, while the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the International Monetary Fund executive board indicated that they felt that the ECB has room to reduce rates.

US policymakers want Europe to adopt a more expansionary policy to ensure that the US does not have to take the whole strain of trying to stimulate global growth. However, some economists feel that, with the euro trading close to record lows, the ECB will leave rates at 3 per cent.

## Dow surges above 10,000

FROM ANDREW BUTCHER IN NEW YORK

BETTING against an interest rate rise in the near future, US investors pushed the key Dow Jones Industrial average above 10,000 again yesterday.

The market surged from the opening after an employment report, released last Friday, showed the lowest jobless rate since 1970 combined with low wage rises. The report was viewed as harmless to interest rates and encouraging for corporate earnings.

Bruce Steinberg, chief economist at Merrill Lynch, said: "The US economy remains robust and the corporate earnings outlook is improving."

General Electric soared to a new high, while most of the other 29 companies that make up the Dow also rose. General

Electric's market capitalisation is the largest of any Dow company. Only Microsoft, which is listed on the Nasdaq market, is worth more.

The Nasdaq index, with a membership rich in technology companies, rocketed towards a record level as investors bought Internet and computer stocks with renewed relish.

Yahoo!, the leading Internet search site, powered ahead more than 10 per cent to within a whisker of a record high as analysts revised the company's earnings estimates.

America Online, the world's most popular Internet service provider and one of the stock market's best performers in recent years, also continued its bull market run.



Don Clark, of Torquil Clark, the independent financial advisers, uses a helicopter to beat the deadline with his clients' last-minute Pep applications yesterday

MORE than 150,000 people have made inquiries to National Savings about the individual savings account (Isa), the new tax-free savings scheme that will go on sale for the first time today (Caroline Merrell writes).

The Isa will replace personal equity plans (Peps) and tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas). According to

## Flying start expected for Isa

National Savings, the level of inquiries is much higher than expected. Peter Barreau, chief executive of National Savings, said: "Since we began advertising Isas on television and in the press, inquiries have been coming in at the

rate of over 2,000 per day. We are expecting a heavy demand."

According to research by MORI for Newton, the fund manager, about 15 per cent of adults in Britain think they will invest in the Isa in the

first half of this tax year. The 15 per cent equates to 6.75 million adults and compares with the 8 per cent who intended to invest in Peps during the same period last year.

In-house research by Newton revealed that one in five of its customers actually intended to invest more in an Isa than they did in a Pep, suggesting that the Isa has been accepted by investors.

Overall, investors aim to save an average of £2,212 in Isas in the first six months. However, individuals nearing retirement have more to invest and say they will save £4,258 on average.

## News Corp to unveil \$2.1bn Liberty deals

FROM ANDREW BUTCHER IN NEW YORK

THE News Corporation, the global media group, is today expected to announce two deals worth \$2.1 billion (£1.3 billion) with Liberty Media, the US sports broadcasting venture.

News Corp is set to acquire Liberty's 50 per cent interest in Fox/Liberty Networks, a joint venture with News Corp, for about \$1.4 billion in non-voting News Corp stock.

In addition, Liberty is expected to buy about \$700 million of News Corp shares from MCI WorldCom, the US long-distance phone company. MCI bought a stake in News Corp in 1995 as part of a business relationship. However, MCI's strategy has changed since its merger with WorldCom.

News Corporation owns

News International, the parent company of The Times.

Fox/Liberty Networks is a sports business that was formed in 1995 to challenge the ESPN network that had

dominated sports broadcasting in America. Liberty, now a subsidiary of AT&T, is chaired by John Malone.

When the two deals have been completed, Liberty will become the third-largest shareholder in News Corp with an interest of 7.5 per cent.

Rupert Murdoch, the chairman and chief executive, and other family members control about 30 per cent of the company's shares, while the Capital Group owns 8.5 per cent.

Several Wall Street analysts viewed Mr Malone's interest in investing in News Corp as a significant vote of confidence in the company.

The company's American Depository Receipts rose sharply during trading in New York yesterday.



Malone: chairman of Liberty

## LVMH and Gucci bid showdown

LVMH and Gucci will meet tomorrow as the two rival luxury goods companies seek a resolution to their £4.9 billion bid battle (Martin Barrow writes).

Bernard Arnault, the LVMH chairman, is expected to give full details of his offer. Gucci will then consider the bid in the following days, deciding whether or not to recommend it to shareholders.

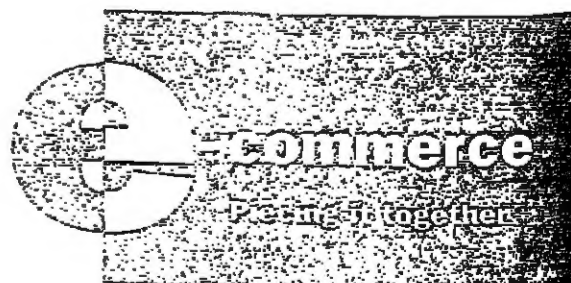
LVMH had previously not intended to buy the whole company, merely to gain representation on the board. But Gucci forced its hand by sealing a deal with Pinault-Printemps-Redoute, the French retailer, for it to take a 40 per cent stake.

The battle started early this year when LVMH, which numbers Givenchy perfume and Moët & Chandon champagne among its products, built up a 35 per cent stake and asked for a seat in the boardroom.

INCREASE

Getting any business started with e-commerce applications requires the skills and support of more than one company.

This is why Sun Microsystems has forged alliances with leading e-commerce organisations to help its customers.



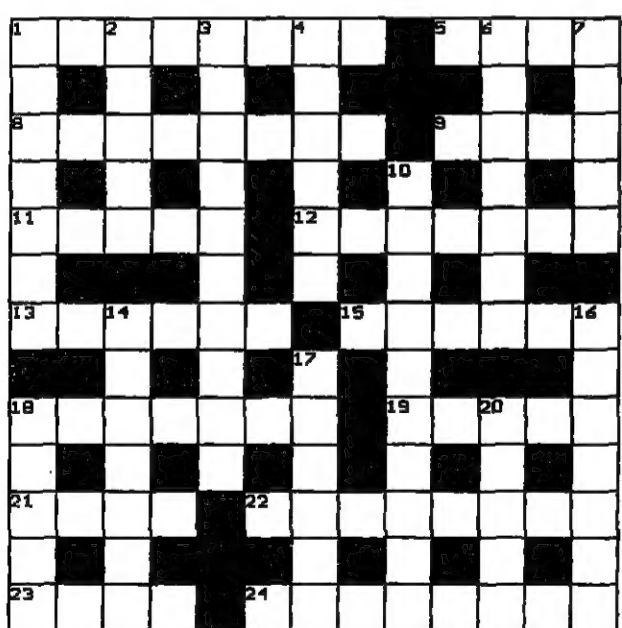
Morse is proud to be one of Sun's partners. With first hand experience of putting both our own and a range of clients' e-commerce systems in place, we have much to offer.

To find out more about this, and why Morse is Sun's largest partner in Europe, please visit:

www.morse.com



## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1684

ACROSS  
1 Exhausted-soil disaster (4,4)  
5 Church recess (4)  
8 Perfumed (8)  
9 Pines; extended (4)  
11 Papal court (5)  
12 Trafalgar anniversary month (7)  
13 Repudiate (6)  
15 Trouble: take trouble (6)  
18 Big Greek jar (7)  
19 Holy quest object (5)  
21 Prosperous period; explosive noise (4)  
22 Flirtatious behaviour (8)  
23 Yugoslav dictator once (4)  
24 Taken into custody (8)

DOWN  
1 (Appearance) vandalised (7)  
2 Set of steps (5)  
3 It came to Dunsinane (Macbeth) (4,4)  
4 Unprovoked; lascivious (6)  
6 Lord High Everything Else (Mikado) (4-3)  
7 - Allan Poe: Lear beggar (5)  
10 In which are one's best cards (6,4)  
14 Backing (7)  
16 Passed on, along (7)  
17 Multi-storied temple (6)  
18 Bounds, scope (5)  
20 Later than (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1683

ACROSS: 1 Cocked 4 Outer 8 Let up 9 Unequal 10 Rue 11 Ochre 12 Shampoo 14 Thrash 16 Sonnet 20 Estella 23 Fiehe 24 Nil 25 Iranian 26 Igloo 27 Ditty 28 Beheld  
DOWN: 1 Call of the wild 2 Catcher 3 Snagress 4 Opera 5 Trump 6 Rule of the road 7 Guest 13 Man 15 Ace 17 Off-line 18 Nacelle 19 Canny 21 Trait 22 Laity

SOLUTION TO EASTER SATURDAY TIMES TWO JUMBO

ACROSS: 1 Debate 5 Illustrator 11 Thrusts 15 Apartheid 16 Durrell 17 Bête noire 18 Respray 19 Necktie 20 Pain-killing 21 The wish is father to the thought 23 Catalonia 25 Turn the tide 27 Foyer 29 Contributor 31 Gambol 32 Hispanic 35 Pre-empt 37 Eternity 38 Hard-bitten 40 Swiss chard 41 Tribunal 42 Upgrade 44 Obelisks 45 Castle 46 Rationalise 49 Envoy 51 Thunderclap 53 Boot sales 55 Triumph of hope over experience 58 Sleeping car 60 Duneaid 61 Sterile 62 Advertise 63 Porcine 64 Daintiest 65 Earmark 66 Tastelessly 67 Soybean

DOWN: 1 Diacritic 2 Brassie 3 Caterpillar 4 Everything but the kitchen sink 5 Indonesia 6 Lady Chatterley 7 Stretcher 8 Roe deer 9 Telephone box 10 Rubbish bin 11 To take the wind out of one's sails 12 Renal 13 Smilingly 14 Slight 22 Offspring 24 Tangerine 26 Timetable 28 Reconvene 29 Copstone 30 Theory 31 Generator 33 Nathaniel 34 Hamlet 36 Mysticism 39 Unpreparedness 43 Cardiographs 47 Absentmindedly 48 Sufficient 50 Voice-over 52 Levantine 53 Boxing Day 54 Steventon 55 Testate 56 Endorse 57 Naivete 59 Parma

Budget changes force up cost to employers

## Medical cover fear for staff

By CAROLINE MERRELL

EMPLOYERS face a 22 per cent increase in the cost of providing private medical insurance because of changes introduced in the Budget, according to new research.

William M. Mercer, the employee benefit consultant, believes that the increased costs will prompt employers to withdraw or curtail private medical insurance offered to employees. Some four million employees are covered by company schemes.

The sharp increase in costs is blamed on rising premium costs and changes in national insurance. In last month's Budget Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, added a percentage point to insurance premium

tax (IPT), bringing it to 5 per cent, and changed the rules so that employers now have to pay NI on the benefit for employees. Steve Clements, of William M. Mercer, said: "In the first instance, employers' national insurance contributions and the rise in IPT will push up the costs by over 12 per cent."

Mr Clements also believes that the medical inflation, which far outstrips the prevailing inflation rate, will eventually add to the costs for employers.

William Laing, a partner of Laing and Buisson, the specialist healthcare analyst, said employers will be under pressure to pass on costs to employees. He said: "The majority [of employees], around 59 per

cent, do not have to pay anything towards their schemes: the rest do."

Mr Clements said employers would have difficulty in simply abandoning schemes as costs rise. "It is one of the most highly valued benefits and many employees make regular use of it," he said. "So it is not easy to say I'm withdrawing it, buy your own cover."

David Bryant, a spokesman for BUPA, the private healthcare firm that reported a fall in profits last week, said: "I do not disagree with the 22 per cent figure, but I say that it is speculative. We have not yet decided what we are going to do with our premiums, but we will be deciding this summer."